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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

LOCAL



Kazunori Ikeda, better known as "Kazu," passed away on Tuesday.

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The latest round of bad weather slamS into Britain's west coast.

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LIFE & STYLE



Barbie makes it to the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit's 50th anniversary issue.

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'Shelved' Saipan casino bill may be resurrected

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said a House bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan that the Senate "filed" or shelved in November may be resurrected, adding that major revenue-generating bills need to move so that retirees' deferred 25-percent pension cut will be restored, among other things.



Torres

Torres, one of the seven senators that voted to file the Saipan casino bill last year, said the bill is "not dead" and is "still the property of the Senate."

The Senate president said upon consultation with counsel, the bill could still be resurrected and acted on by senators if they so choose.

"I want to look into every and all revenue-generating bills and possibilities to restore the 25 percent for retirement," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked whether the bills include those that

See SHELVED on Page 4

33 YEARS AFTER MAJOR VOLCANIC ERUPTION

House OKs homesteads on Pagan

► DPL opposes bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By a vote of 19-0, the House of Representatives paved the way for the Department of Public Lands to grant homestead permits for residents wanting to relocate to Pagan and other Northern Islands, 33 years since Mount Pagan first erupted in 1981.

But DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio

See PAGAN on Page 4



HEARTS DAY

Debbie Ong, an arranger at Island Touch by Philip in Susupe, shows yesterday some of the gift baskets for sale in time for today's observance of Valentine's Day. Around Saipan, flower boutiques and gift shops see brisk business days leading to February 14 every year to mark the day associated with romantic love and whose modern-day expressions include giving flowers, chocolates, stuffed toys and other gifts.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

FBI agent takes stand in Buckingham trial

► **OPA rests its case, defense calls Judge Camacho to the witness stand**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park recounted to the court yesterday how then-Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio

Ogumoro tried to prevent them from serving a criminal penal summons to former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham at the Saipan International Airport in the early morning hours of Aug. 4, 2012.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N.

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Settlement Fund portfolio declining, depletion seen in 2019. Page 7
CEC OKs 13 polling stations for November polls. PAGE 9

Local

Kazunori Ikeda, 44

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

After nearly 10 months of battling cancer, 44-year-old Kazunori Ikeda, better known as "Kazu," passed away at the Commonwealth Health Center on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014.

Ikeda was diagnosed in May with squamous cell carcinoma, a type of non-melanoma skin cancer, at CHC and sought treatment in the Philippines where his condition was confirmed. After months of treatment and battling the disease, Ikeda took his final breathe at CHC Tuesday night at 9:25pm.

He is survived by his sister, Mami Ikeda, 46. "We just had each other," she said.

Their mother, Mieko, passed away 15 years ago due to a brain tumor and their father, Noriyoshi, passed away in early May of 2012.

Kazu, a 1988 graduate of Mount Carmel School, worked under Tasi Tours as bus operations manager for the past two decades. According to his sister, he always reported to work on time even when he was sick and only quit his job after being stricken with cancer.

"He was very genuine and humble," she said. "He couldn't care less about what nationalities or race people were and he was very nice and thoughtful."

She reminisced how her only sibling would never cease to put other people before himself. "He was there for everybody who needed help and that is the reason everyone is out here for him and helping."

Kazu's passing sparked countless Facebook postings of people paying tribute to him and sending their condolences to the Ikeda family. His fellow 1988 classmates came together immediately after his death to assist Mami in funeral planning and services.

Mount Carmel released this statement on their Web page yesterday: "We remember Alum-Knight Kazunori Ikeda who passed away after a battle with



Kazunori

cancer. Kazu was a happy person who brought joy and laughs to everyone that knew him. Our prayers are with you Kazu and your family."

According to Mami, she arrived on Saipan only in 2009 after finishing her work in Japan. "I missed a lot of his years, but I know because of the reaction of people that he was legendary."

He was also known for his keen interest in motor sports, particularly drag racing. Fellow motor sports athlete and long-time friend Paul Guerrero said he will eternally remember two things about his beloved friend—his smile and his willingness to help others. Guerrero, who has known Kazu since 1996, considers Kazu an older brother and mentor.

As a child growing up on Saipan, Kazu played in the local little league team in his junior high years. His former baseball coach, Anthony Cabrera, echoed Guerrero's sentiments. "I will always remember him as someone who never gave up."

He said he will surely miss his friend and will never forget the first words Kazu said 10 months ago when he was diagnosed with cancer: "I am going to fight this fight."

Cabrera said, "He has always had so much determination and an open heart. When I first learned about his diagnosis I kept quiet, but I always knew that he wouldn't go down without a fight. He was never a quitter."

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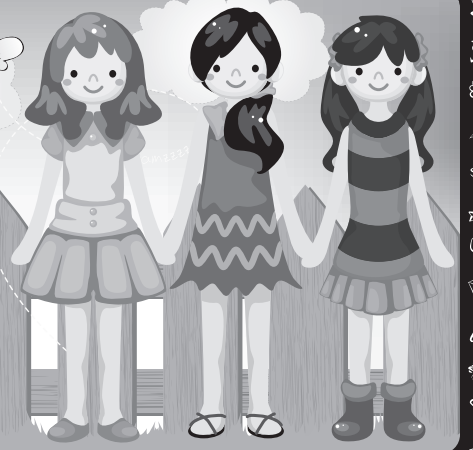
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TO RESOLVE ONE OF TAISAGUE'S CLAIMS IN HIS LAWSUIT

Judge certifies 2 questions to NMI Supreme Court

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has issued an order certifying two questions to the CNMI Supreme Court regarding issues of the CNMI Constitution's scope that will resolve one of the claims in Jesus I. Taisague's lawsuit against Gov. Eloy Inos and the CNMI government.

As this developed, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood on Thursday granted the Office of the Attorney General's motion to dismiss Taisague's claims against the Department of Finance. The judge also dismissed most of Taisague's claims.

In an order also issued Thursday, Tydingco-Gatewood certified the two questions:

1. Are a retiree's contractual rights "impaired" or "diminished" under Article I, Section I of the Commonwealth Constitution or under Article III, Section 20 of that Constitution where the Commonwealth (1) does not pass any law creating a defense to the breach of the pension contract, (2) does not pass any law depriving a retiree of the ability to sue for breach of the pension contract, and (3) passes a law requiring the Legislature to appropriate funds before court judgments can be enforced?

2. If the answer to the first

question is yes, what are the elements to a claim under these constitutional provisions?

Tydingco-Gatewood said Inos and the CNMI government have filed a motion to dismiss Taisague's claim for violation of the CNMI Constitution, and the CNMI Supreme Court's answers on these questions would be dispositive of the federal court's proceedings.

Although the CNMI Supreme Court has twice interpreted the U.S. Constitution's contract of clause, it has not yet ruled on the corresponding provisions in the CNMI Constitution, Tydingco-Gatewood said.

Taisague, through counsel Ramon Quichocho, is suing on his own behalf to recover 100 percent of his pension payments and his health insurance coverage.

Taisague opted out of the settlement in the Betty Johnson's class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund.

According to Taisague, the settlement agreement with Johnson is unconstitutional and illegal.

With Tydingco-Gatewood's dismissal of the Department of Finance from the lawsuit, the remaining defendants in the case are Inos, the CNMI government, and the Fund.

In her separate order, Ty-

dingco-Gatewood dismissed Taisague's claim for violation of the U.S. Constitution's contract clause, violation of due process, and deprivation of rights.

The judge allowed Taisague to amend his claim for deprivation of rights only to assert a plausible due process claim against Inos.

On Taisague's claim for violation of the Commonwealth Constitution's contract clause,

Tydingco-Gatewood withheld ruling on the claim until the High Court resolves the two

certified questions.

Taisague's other pending claims are breach of contract,

breach of fiduciary duty, unjust enrichment, and declaratory relief count.

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Man gets 5 yrs. for molesting girl

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman on Wednesday slapped a five-year prison term on Kabirul Islam Molla, a 39-year-old man who molested a 13-year-old girl.

Wiseman sentenced Molla to five years in prison for sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree and six months in prison for disturbing the peace.

The six-month sentence will be concurrent with the five-year sentence. It means that the total jail term is five years.

Wiseman said although defendant's counsel sets forth the hardships of defendant's life, sentencing is not really what is good for the defendant, but rather what is best for the community, and in particular, the safety of children.

Wiseman said that Molla sexually molested the child while she was asleep by placing his hand under her shirt and touching her breast. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Teen arrested for allegedly burglarizing shop

A teenager was arrested Thursday for allegedly stealing copper wires, a desk top computer, and other tools from a maintenance workshop belonging to his family's landlord in Dandan.

Gerson Paul Semens, 18, was taken before Superior Court As-

sociate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday for his initial appearance on charges of burglary and theft.

A \$5,000 cash bail was imposed for Semens' temporary release.

Detective Catherine B. Pan-

gelinean stated in her report that on Feb. 6, 2014, a police officer was dispatched to a residence in Dandan, where a maintenance work shop had been burglarized.

Pangelinan said copper wires and other tools were stolen.

The following day, Pangelinan said, the owner of the property called her to report that he has a clue about the burglary.

It was learned that the victim's maintenance worker had discovered a small black strip

of copper wire on the floor of the tenant's house while he was fixing the smoke detector inside the residence.

The worker reported the matter to the victim.

Pangelinan said that she, the victim, and the worker searched the house with the consent of the tenant.

Pangelinan said they then

found the stolen items inside a locked room in the house.

The tenant told the detective that she has no knowledge about the items and hinted that her 18-year-old son may have been possibly behind it.

Pangelinan said Semens later came and admitted that he stole the items from the shop on Feb. 5. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

SHELVED

From Page 1

are still at the Senate such as the Saipan casino bill, Torres said "yes."

On Nov. 26, during a session on Rota, the Senate voted to "file" House Bill 18-45, House Draft 7. It was filed by a vote of 7-1. Only Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) voted against filing or shelving the bill and at the time, Reyes said "by them voting to file it, the bill is dead and it will not be entertained again."

Torres' consideration of entertaining the bill once again is precipitated by the government's mounting obligations,

not only the restoration of the 25 percent pension cut but also the annual minimum payment to the retirement settlement fund, payment of interest on some retirement contributions, and an increase in government health insurance premium, among other things.

His apparent reconsideration of the Saipan casino bill comes months after he declared to be Gov. Eloy S. Inos' running mate in the November race. Torres is running as Inos' lieutenant governor under the Republican Party.

Inos has been supportive of casino gambling on Saipan and any other major revenue-generating bills. He has been

calling the Legislature to send him bills that would generate "new" revenues, saying that "cutting" expenses alone won't be enough to meet the government's obligations.

Casino gambling is legal only on Tinian and Rota. Saipan voters rejected twice an initiative to legalize casino gambling on Saipan.

The Senate also voted twice before to reject a Saipan casino bill. Last year's vote to "file" another Saipan casino bill was the latest in a series of votes to not pass it, at least at the time.

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), author of HB 18-45 or the Saipan casino bill, said yesterday he has been

hoping that the Senate would "reconsider" their position on the casino bill.

"If the Senate sees the need to improve the bill, then they could go ahead and amend the bill. All I ask is that the improvement would ensure repayment of retirees' 25 percent pension cut and other obligations by the government," Demapan said in an interview after the House session at past 5pm yesterday.

Demapan also made it clear that now that the Legislature already passed the video lottery and electronic gaming bills that are now laws, he is "now more inclined to support just one casino license

for Saipan."

The House floor leader, however, said the holder of the Saipan casino license should develop a casino "from the ground up."

"Yes, this means the license holder should come in and build a new hotel for the casino, build it from the ground to the roof, instead of using an existing hotel. If we have a new hotel and casino, then it would create new and additional jobs," Demapan added.

Legalizing casino operations on Saipan has been a divisive issue on the island. Its opponents have been citing casino gaming's social ills, among other things, and have been pushing

for other revenue-generating ideas. They said Saipan already has poker machines and soon, video lottery terminals and electronic gaming.

Lawmakers supporting casino gambling on Saipan said this is the only industry that could immediately pump millions into the government coffers just on application fee and license alone. They added that there has never been alternatives proposed that could generate millions in a short period of time to help retirees and provide more funds for public health, public safety and education.

Right now, the only casino operating in the CNMI is Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

FBI

From Page 1

Camacho was also called yesterday afternoon to the witness stand by Buckingham's counsel, Richard Pierce. Camacho testified that Buckingham did not endorse his candidacy for the delegate position in his remarks at a gathering at the house of then-governor Benigno R. Fitial in Gualo Rai on Aug. 28, 2010.

Camacho also stated that Buckingham was not present during his meeting with the Covenant Party chairman at Saipan World Resort in July 2010.

Camacho's testimony was brief as Pierce and Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback raised only a few questions.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who is presiding in the bench trial of Buckingham, asked only whether Fitial was present at the gathering, to which Camacho replied, "Yes."

The prosecution rested yesterday after calling in its last witness, Office of the Public Auditor chief investigator Juan Santos. Pierce then moved to dismiss the charges.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said he treats the motion to dismiss as a motion for judgment of acquittal.

After listening to the arguments, the judge denied the motion as to five charges: use of public supplies, time and personnel for campaign activities; use of the name of a government department or agency to campaign and/or express support for a candidate running for public office; misconduct in public office (related to campaign matter); conspiracy to commit theft of services (related to escort issue); and misconduct in public office (pertaining to escort issue).

Govendo placed under advisement one count of failure to produce documents or information (pertaining to OPA's request). The judge said he needs

to review the documents or evidence in this matter.

In his testimony, Park said that when he and another FBI agent entered the airport's VIP Lounge, Ogumoro walked toward them in a rapid fashion and confronted him. Park said Ogumoro told him that he was under an "executive order" to escort Buckingham and his wife to the plane.

Park said he explained to Ogumoro that they were there to serve a criminal penal summons to Buckingham and that if he [Ogumoro] places a hand on him, he will be arrested.

Park said he told Ogumoro that the summons only requires Buckingham to appear in court on Monday and that they [FBI agents] had no jurisdiction or authority to hold Buckingham.

Ogumoro reportedly replied that he would confer with Buckingham. Ogumoro went back to Buckingham and later allowed him to approach the former AG.

Park said he introduced himself to Buckingham, who stated

that he knew him. Park said he explained to Buckingham about the criminal summons that requires him to appear in Superior Court.

Park said he placed the summons on the table in front of Buckingham, because the latter was on the phone.

When asked why the FBI became involved, Park said it was OPA that contacted him in the evening of Aug. 3, 2012, to ask for his help as OPA investigators had been threatened that they would be arrested if they insist on serving the summons. Park said the FBI has a task force with OPA in which they have an agreement to address public corruption.

The agent said that upon their arrival at the airport, he and the other FBI special agent met with OPA investigators Juan Santos and Juanette David-Atalig and they proceeded to the CPA police office. He said they requested a CPA officer to see a supervisor because they want to get inside the airport to serve the

summons.

Park said it was apparent that somebody gave instructions to CPA to obstruct the serving of summons as they were given various excuses.

After waiting for quite some time, Park said he and the other agent proceeded to the business lounge, where Ogumoro physically confronted him.

After Park, OPA called police detective Peter R. Camacho, who testified that he was assigned at patrol at that time and assisted OPA investigators Santos and David-Atalig in their attempt to serve the summons to Buckingham.

Camacho said it was his then-supervisor, Capt. Juan Mendiola, who instructed him to assist the OPA investigators at Aquarius Hotel. At Aquarius, David-Atalig asked him to assist them in serving the summons to Buckingham because they had a hard time doing so.

Camacho said he failed to go to Buckingham's room because the hotel manager was informed

that Buckingham was not there.

Later, Camacho said, Capt. Mendiola called him and told him that Ogumoro instructed him to back off from helping the OPA investigators. He said Mendiola stated that the instruction was that, if OPA investigators do not stop, they would be arrested.

Camacho said that, upon instruction from a detective, he called Fitial, who asked him what he was doing at Aquarius Hotel and who authorized him to help the OPA investigators. He said he told Fitial that it was his field supervisor.

After the judge ruled on the motion for judgment of acquittal, Pierce called their first witness, assistant attorney general Charles Brasington, who basically testified, among other things, how he and other government lawyers discussed their special appearance for Buckingham at the latter's initial hearing in the criminal case.

The trial will continue today, Friday, at 9am.

PAGAN

From Page 1

said the department "unequivocally opposes the passage of House Bill 18-109."

Among other things, Tenorio said, the bill proposes to "usurp" DPL's functions "by forcing DPL to disregard Article 11 of the NMI Constitution, Public Law 15-2 or the Public Lands Act, Public Law 1-42 or the Village Homesteading Act of 1979, the Village Homestead Rules and Regulations, and other related statutes, regulations and procedures relating to homestead and homestead waiver."

"The Legislature cannot usurp the functions of DPL unless it repeals or amends Public Law 15-2," Tenorio said in his written comments on the bill.

HB 18-109, authored by Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian),

still has to go to the Senate.

House members debated at length the Natural Resources Committee's report recommending passage of HB 18-109. The debate continued during discussion of the bill itself.

Conner's bill didn't pass the House until exactly 5pm yesterday.

"I appreciate members' support to this bill. I hope it's something that will come to fruition," he told *Saipan Tribune* after the session.

Conner said even before Mount Pagan's eruption, there were already Northern Island residents applying for homestead permits. He said those dated back some four decades ago.

If signed into law, the legislation would "compel the Department of Public Lands to enforce the spirit and intent behind Article 11 by ensuring that any and all bureaucratic or administrative issues, including DPL's own rules and

regulations, that presently delay the granting of homestead applications are eliminated by law as they relate to the Northern Islands homesteads."

Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) voted "yes" with reservation, owing to her concerns that those granted homestead permits on Rota still could not afford to build their homes because of high costs of construction materials and others are faced with possible revocation of their homestead permits. She said some with deeds to their property are also waiting for clearance from federal agencies.

"Why treat our brothers and sisters differently? Why do we bend rules for some, but not for the others?" she asked.

Besides Santos, also voting "yes with reservation" was Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

The House vote came weeks after Gov. Eloy S. Inos said he opposes the U.S. military's

planned use of heavy artillery on Tinian and Pagan. The governor's statement reinforces not only the House's position and that of other sectors opposed to the militarization of Pagan especially.

The House Natural Resources Committee, in recommending passage of the bill, said the legislation intends to grant all present pending applications for homesteads in the Northern Islands to allow grantees to begin construction on their homes, provided that these grantees have the means to fulfill their duties and obligations under the law to improve upon the land.

But DPL's Tenorio said the bill "proposes to disregard the functions of DPL as spelled out in Public Law 15-2 and now wants to carve its own rules as to how the homestead program for the Northern Islands should be administered and implemented."

"The bill proposes to waive virtually, if not literally, all homestead requirements from Northern Islands current and former residents who are eligible to apply for in the Northern Islands," he said.

Tenorio asked whether the bill intends to disregard the requirements of the Division of Environmental Quality, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Historic Preservation Office, and Coastal Resources Management, as well as federal agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

"If eligible and qualified Northern Islands residents are issued permits for residential homestead lots in the Northern Islands, how are they going to construct their homes? Where are they going to get their construction materials? If they could afford to buy construction

materials from Saipan, how are they going to transport the materials to the Northern Islands? What about the other residents that cannot afford to buy construction materials? How are they to 'fulfill their duties and obligations under the law to improve upon the land'?" he said.

Northern Islands Mayor Tobias DLC. Aldan, meanwhile, supports and commends the bill.

"The bill will definitely help DPL in performance of its responsibility to carry out the Northern Islands, particularly in Pagan. This will allow the residents to construct safe, decent and sanitary dwelling for their families as well as engage in sustainable farming on prime agricultural lands they occupied for eons," he said.

Aldan asks that the bill be passed "as it would immediately expedite the distribution of homestead lots to the Northern Islands residents."

Muña bares plans to further improve public hospital

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After enduring birth pains the past couple of years, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is confident that through recent and future innovations it would be successful in delivering improved healthcare to the local community.

CHCC acting CEO Esther Muña relayed this as one of the guest speakers of the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

One way CHCC has done to address the disconnect between the Commonwealth Health Center, public health, and behavioral health was the implementations of a Primary Care Access Point system.

"We needed to bring prevention to the patients walking through the hospital. Rather than opening just a triage clinic, we made it more of a primary care access point, and called it PCAP. So when patients come in for a non-emergent illness, our providers take the time to educate them and discuss better health options."

Muña also touted CHCC's rollout of its Electronic Medical Records or EMR in November, which made CHC the first public hospital in the region to fully implement an electronic health record.

"Having a fully functioning EMR that complies with the requirements of the Affordable Care Act and will improve patient care and safety is a major accomplishment," she said, adding that the system will eventually be exported to the Tinian and Rota health clinics.

With funding from the Pacific Island Health Officers Association, they will soon formulate a strategic plan for CHCC in line with the tenets of Public Law 16-51, which gave birth to the agency in October 2011.

"Our contractor, WestCare Guam, has met with all managers, partners, and stakeholders to get information on how they perceive health care and where they want to see us

go. We have to have our plan completed before summer. The goal of the strategic plan for the CHCC is to promote the health and wellness of people and visitors of the Commonwealth through providing quality medical care, promoting health and prevention programs, undertaking public health disease surveillance, and sound health-care management."

The current fiscal year will also see CHCC finally getting to manage their federal grants, which would allow it to manage indirect costs funded by these grants.

On top of this, CHCC will be putting out an RFP to come up with its own foundation. Muña said this would be different from the Volunteers

Association and that it is her hope that CHCC will "go beyond our region to obtain additional funds."

During its first couple of years as an entity, CHCC took a hit with the exodus of its physicians, but Muña happily reported that the hospital's retention rate has improved and it now has five internal medicine doctors—up from only two in 2012—and it expects to have five pediatricians by summer.

Medical missionaries, she said, have also been an important part of CHCC's recent success, as it has welcomed visiting specialists by providing them lodging and stipends to provide specialties the hospital normally doesn't

offer.

"Seventh Day Adventist is our biggest partner with that and in the past months, our partnership brought in a dermatologist and now we'll be bringing in an oral maxillofacial surgeon and a young girl with an aggressive ameloblastoma who would not

be accepted by a provider because she only has Medicaid will be receiving treatment when this surgeon arrives next month."

Muña also attributed improvements in CHCC's health-care quality to recent administrative measures and a better financial accounting system.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 15th birthday to Elphidia Deliana C. Pua! May your birthday and every day be filled with the warmth of sunshine, the happiness of smiles, the sounds of laughter, the feeling of love and the sharing of good cheer. May the Lord continue to bless you in every way. We love you! From the Celis-Pua family.



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Drug test for political bets, elected officials inches forward

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed yesterday afternoon two separate bills requiring drug tests for individuals running for public office as well as those who are sitting elected officials, at a time when the public demands that political candidates and pub-

lic officials be held to a higher standard and higher degree of accountability. Some previous lawmakers were involved in drug-related matters.

Both bills require that the results of the drug tests be disclosed to the public.

For official candidates, the test results are to be made public by the Commonwealth Election

Commission.

By a vote of 19-0, the House passed Rep. Roman C. Benavente's (Ind-Saipan) amended House Bill 18-121, requiring screening for illegal substances among those running for office.

Rep. George Camacho (R-



Benavente

individuals as official candidates and that the official candidates

Saipan) offered a floor amendment to HB 18-121, to clarify that the testing for illegal substance is required "once the Commonwealth Election Commission certifies individuals as official candidates"

shall "bear the cost of the drug testing." Members adopted Camacho's floor amendment, and passed the bill as amended at 3:40pm.

House members also passed by a vote of 19-0 Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero's (Cov-Saipan) amended HB 18-152, requiring mandatory drug testing of elected public officials. The amended bill, co-sponsored by three other members, passed at 4:01pm.

Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) offered a floor amendment, which the members later adopted, to remove a portion of one of the provisions that would have required each elected official to bear the cost of the annual drug testing.

During discussion of the bills, some members asked about the absence of any penalty provision for those who do not comply with the drug testing.

The speaker said a penalty provision was intentionally not included because by doing so, "it may infringe on one's constitutional rights." He said the penalty is the public disclosure of the drug test results. Some members also said this includes disclosure that the officials or candidates didn't undergo drug testing.

HB 18-121, HD1 and HB 18-152, HD2 are now headed for the Senate, which is also now reviewing a bill that would require drug testing for law enforcement personnel.

Benavente, in his bill, said the growing abuse of controlled substance has been associated with an increased level of crime in the CNMI.

"Over the years, there have been several incidents involving elected officials and law enforcement officers or employees of regulatory agencies who have either been convicted or charged with committing illegal drug use or trafficking

related offenses in the CNMI," the bill says.

It adds that the abuse of controlled substances by individuals charged with and who hold the responsibility of safeguarding the safety of the public "has shaken the confidence of the people in law enforcement and elected officials."

Leon Guerrero, in his bill, said the government has adopted alcohol- and drug-free workplace policies but these policies do not apply to elected officials.

"Elected officials should be held to a higher degree of accountability. The results of drug tests of public officials should be made public," the bill says.

Under the bill, each elected official shall annually submit to a test for controlled substances. Elected officials include the governor, lieutenant governor, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, mayors, municipal council members, and elected members of the Board of Education.

The speaker said even the attorney general, who will be elected in November, will be included, along with judges and justices who are up for retention because their names would also be on the ballot.

In the past year, the government has not conducted any random drug testing because of lack of funds. But Gov. Eloy S. Inos said his administration will reprogram funds to ensure government random drug tests will be administered this year, following reports that not even law enforcement personnel got randomly tested in at least a year as required by law because of lack of funds.

Office of Personnel Management director Isidro Seman earlier said OPM needs "at least \$14,000 to \$15,000 a year" to administer random drug testing annually.

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Saipan

Settlement Fund portfolio declining, depletion seen in 2019

- **Wilshire to be retained investment consultant at \$145K**
- **Contract for new software program at \$150K**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the required monthly drawdown from the investment accounts, it is now projected that the lifespan of the settlement fund will only be up to 2019, or five years from now.

Settlement trustee Joyce C. H. Tang disclosed this in her report to the court on Tuesday, indicating that this projection includes the assumption that zero income will be realized from investment portfolios and that the NMI government will continue to pay the annual payments.

As of Dec. 31, 2013, the remaining balance in the investment accounts was \$104.8 million.

For fiscal year 2014, the amount required to cover pension payments and operating

expenses of the Settlement Fund is approximately \$51.6 million, Tang said. Assuming full timely payment of the \$25 million annual payment from the government, less pension payments and operation expense, there will be a shortage of approximately \$26.6 million.

Tang said the Settlement Fund continues to drawdown on the investment accounts every month to cover the pension payouts and operating expenses. Each year, drawdown is at \$24 million to \$27 million.

In her analysis, this fiscal year 2014 annual payment is projected at \$25 million with anticipated annual shortfall of \$28 million. The amount of declining investment account balance will be \$85 million.

In fiscal year 2015, Tang said they are projecting \$27

million in annual payments; \$28 million in shortfall; and investment balance will be at \$59 million.

In fiscal year 2016, with a forecast annual payment of \$30 million and projected shortfall of \$23 million, the investment account is projected to be just around \$36 million.

In fiscal year 2017, the declining investment account is seen at \$16 million (annual payment of \$33 million and \$20 million projected shortfall).

The investment account is seen to further go down to \$8 million in fiscal year 2018 (anticipated annual payment is at \$45 million versus projected shortfall of \$8 million).

By fiscal year 2019, the investment account balance is

seen at negative \$1 million with the following projected figures: annual payment of \$44 million and projected annual shortfall of \$9 million.

According to Tang, given the sustained high rates of cash outflow, short expected life, and uncertainty whether the CNMI government will continue to meet its annual payment obligations, the Settlement Fund does not have the ability to take on much investment risk in the financial markets.

"Although a new asset allocation glidepath is being analyzed and considered, it is clear that the portfolio will still be predominantly fixed income base. This means that the expected return for the Settlement Fund will be significantly below an

average pension plan's expected return," stated Tang in her filing, adding that the combination of continued high outflow of funds coupled with low returns seriously limits the options for earning investment income.

As of Dec. 31, 2013 the following are the investment balances: Blackrock (\$3.138 million); JP Morgan (\$959,000); Mutual Fund cash (\$721,000); and PIMCO Richmond Capital (\$100.059 million).

Contracts

Still based on Tang's latest court filing, a contract is being proposed to retain the services of Wilshire Associates, which agreed to serve at a lesser fee. It was disclosed that from the RFPs issued by the Settlement Fund,

Wilshire is the only firm that submitted a proposal that met the requirements of the RFP. It is asking for a basic fee of \$145,000, which is \$20,000 less than what it charged the Fund in 2013.

Because the Settlement Fund also requires a software program that is able to calculate the benefits and audit members' accounts, a contract was proposed to the tune of \$150,000.

Tang said the software program is tailored to meet the requirements of the Settlement Fund and will be operational late next month. The \$150,000 cost, she said, is substantially less than the \$400,00 paid by the Fund previously to a company and the \$250,000 quoted by Buck Consultants for the same service.

Inos approves \$75K salary for deputy AG

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has certified and approved the over-the-cap salary of deputy attorney general Gilbert J. Bimbrich, who is receiving \$75,000 a year.

The Compensation Adjustment Act sets the salary ceiling for government employees at \$50,000. However, the law gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling and submit a certification to the Legislature.

"By copy of this letter, I am also advising the chair-

man of the Civil Service Commission of this certification," Inos said in his Jan. 23 letter to Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Joseph DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan). The letter, however, was received at the Legislature only on Feb. 7.

This has been the first over-the-cap salary certification that the governor has sent to the Legislature in months. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

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GOP, Dems set separate gatherings

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine months before the 2014 general elections, the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas and the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association will hold separate gatherings this month.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) will have a "greet and meet" with Republican Party members, family, friends, and supporters on Sunday, Feb. 16, at the beach area next to the Tronkon Daok and the 4-H Club Building in Susupe. The gathering starts at 10am.

Inos and Torres are the Republican Party's official candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, in the November race.

The "special picnic" is organized by the Republican Party

and the Committee to Elect Eloy S. Inos and Ralph DLG. Torres.

Inos was the titular head of the Covenant Party before it merged with the Republican Party.

To date, no other potential candidates for the November 2014 have announced intention to seek the post of governor.

The Republican Party's Sunday gathering also comes at a time when the GOP still does not have a chairman. The party has yet to replace Joaquin "Jack" P. Villagomez, who resigned as chairman on Dec. 6 for "health reasons." The party used to be headed by former governor Benigno R. Fitial, who stepped down as governor days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

The Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas, meanwhile, will hold a general membership meeting on Saturday, Feb. 22, at Garapan Cen-

tral Park beginning at 4pm.

The highlights of this meeting include the election of Democratic Party Central Executive Committee members. It will also serve as a "gathering of friendship, partnership, fellowship and kinship" by the party.

The Democratic Party, in its public notice, invites those who want to join a "movement of political empowerment based on what you can do for your community rather than what your community can do for you."

It invites those who, for example, are retirees suffering from the 25 percent cut in their pension and a 40 percent increase in insurance premium payments, victims of political retribution, or disappointed and disenfranchised Covenant or Republican members.

At present, the Legislature is filled with Independents, Republicans and members of the defunct Covenant Party.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Terminal Improvements at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport, Terminal Improvements, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, demolition, building and site improvements and includes concrete foundations, concrete slabs-on-grade, cast-in-place concrete, roof membrane, metal roofing, concrete masonry unit walls, non-structural metal framing, carpentry, gypsum board, ceramic tile, resilient flooring, acoustical ceilings, aluminum doors and frames, aluminum windows, glazing, door hardware, cabinetry, toilet partitions, toilet accessories, signage, flag poles, baggage conveyors, waiting room seating, painting, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical lighting and power, complete and ready for use all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from CNMI Capital Improvement Program. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be two hundred seventy (270) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible," their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or misentry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 11, 2014

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 14, 2006

Japan arrivals continue decline

Tourist arrivals from Japan plunged by 29 percent during the first month of the year, showing a consistent sharp decline since the departure of Japan Airlines in October 2005. Data from the Marianas Visitors Authority released yesterday showed that the CNMI received only 25,555 visitors from Japan last month, compared with the 35,795 visitors in January 2005. Another key market, South Korea, posted a 9-percent drop in arrivals, registering only 6,902 visitors last month from the 7,554 posted during the same month last year.

Police recover stolen disaster relief supplies

Police have recovered most of the 63 boxes of disaster relief supplies worth \$54,000 that were stolen during a burglary at the Emergency Management Office's storage room, police said yesterday. Maj. Edward H. Manalili, chief of the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau, told the Saipan Tribune that CIB detectives were able to retrieve many of the disaster relief packages since last week. Manalili said some concerned citizens also returned many items contained in the packages yesterday morning.

February 14, 2007

Potential govt contractor has Fitial's close ally on board

An appointee of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has been linked to a construction firm involved in a government project. A document from the Registrar of Corporations shows that Daniel Buniag, the governor's special assistant for special projects, sits on the board of directors of Prime Asia International Corp. Prime Asia, along with Shenyang International Corp., has expressed interest in the construction of a building that will house most, if not all, government offices. The project developers have reportedly presented its architectural design for the building to Fitial and other administration officials recently. In early July 2006, Fitial reported that Prime Asia had offered free generators for the use of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

CPA'S ARFF obtains re-accreditation

The National Fire Board on Fire Service, also known as the Pro-Board, has renewed the accreditation of the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Facility Training Center and its Fire Certification Program. The certificate to re-accredit the Commonwealth Ports Authority's ARFF program was given to Fire Chief Stanley Torres during a Pro-Board Accreditation Council meeting held in Florida on Feb. 3, 2007. Torres presented the Certificate of Re-Accreditation to the CPA board of directors during CPA's special board meeting held on Feb. 7, 2007. The Pro Board accredits fire service training agencies that use the National Fire Protection Association's professional qualification standards.

February 14, 2008

Federalization bill hits snag

The bill placing local immigration under federal control has fallen off track after it got mired in the gun control debate and national politics. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, citing reports from the CNMI's lobbyists in Washington, D.C., said the omnibus bill that includes the CNMI immigration federalization is seeing some delay in the Senate. This happened after Sen. Tom Coburn reportedly proposed an amendment allowing guns in public parks—a controversial issue especially in an election year. Fitial said the government does not know yet what will happen to the bill.

Volcanic haze blankets Saipan, Tinian

The characteristic smell of sulfur—like rotting eggs or an open sewer—saturated the air yesterday due to winds blowing the volcanic haze from Anatahan to the islands of Saipan and Tinian, prompting the government to issue an alert. The Department of Public Health urged people with respiratory problems to remain indoors until the haze and odor are dispersed. No private and public schools were closed, but outdoor activities were cancelled. Teachers and officials advised students to cover their mouths and noses with handkerchiefs when outside the classrooms. In the health advisory that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued at 9:33am yesterday, he said the volcanic haze may cause breathing difficulties.

FOR 2014 GENERAL ELECTIONS CEC OKs 13 polling stations

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board of directors has approved the designation of 13 official polling precincts for this year's general elections.

The decision was made during the board's meeting Tuesday on Rota where members re-elected Frances Sablan anew as their board chair for another year. Named vice chair is Donald Hofschneider.

The CNMI's general election is set on Nov. 6 this year and the governor and lieutenant governor positions are among the spots up for grabs.

CEC executive director Robert Guerrero said yesterday that the early designation of the polling stations is for the start of the sites' maintenance and for early voting activities.

Hopwood Junior High School, Dandan Elementary School, and Koblerville Youth Center are the designated polling sites for precinct 1 voters. This precinct covers registrants from San Antonio, San Vicente, and Koblerville area.

For Precinct 2 voters from Chalan Kanoa and Susupe areas, their official polling station is the Joeten Kiyu Public Library. The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and the Garapan

Elementary School northern side will accommodate voters for precinct 3 covering the areas of Oleai and Garapan.

Official polling stations for Precinct 4 are the Tanapag Youth Center, the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Legislature Building, and the Northern Islands. Precinct 4 voters are from Tanapag, San Roque, Capitol Hill, and Northern Islands.

Voters in Precinct 5, covering residents of Kagman, now have a new polling site, the Kagman Elementary School.

The Tinian Elementary School remains the official polling station for Precinct 6 while voters on Rota will have to go to the Northern Marianas College campus to cast their votes.

Voters' registration for the general elections is now ongoing.

As of Jan. 13, 2014, CEC had a total of 15,736 registered voters. For the Northern Marianas descent, there are over 6,000 on the list to date.

Of the 15,736 registered voters, 12,849 are from Saipan; Tinian, 1,309; and Rota, 1,578. Those numbers will still rise in the coming months until the registration deadline on Sept. 6.

According to Guerrero, CEC expects to accommodate over 16,000 voters in this year's elections.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP14-DOC-051

“Development of the CNMI Consumer Assistance Program's Web Site and Consumer Web-based Database Application”

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Consumer Assistance Program (CAP), is seeking qualified proposals to develop and implement a web site and consumer web-based database application specific to the CNMI for the “Development of the CNMI Consumer Assistance Program's Web Site and Consumer Web-based Database Application”.

The complete RFP packet will be available on or after **January 24, 2014** and may be picked up at the CNMI Procurement and Supply Office located in Lower Base Drive, Saipan.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Title 70 of the NMIAC CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to **Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu** Consumer Assistance Program Advocacy Officer/Project Manager via email to advocacyoffice@commerce.gov.mp or via fax to: (670) 664-3067 no later than **4:30 p.m. local time, February 20, 2014**.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications and Experiences: 30%
- Technical Merit/Response to RFP: 30%
- On-Site Availability/Commitment to Resources: 25%
- Cost: 15%

Award of the contract shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

Performance time for completion of the Development of the CNMI Consumer Assistance Program's Web Site and Consumer Web-based Database Application is for the **90 days** upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Proposal shall be valid for **60 days** after closure of RFP.

All proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP14-DOC-051** and in compliance with the Request for Proposal structure and include an original and five (5) hard copies and two (2) electronic copies and submitted no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, March 06, 2014** to:

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply
Lower Base Drive
P.O. Box 510008 C.K.
Saipan, MP 96950

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/S/ **SIXTO K. IGISOMAR**
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ **KAITLYN NEISES-MOCANU**
CONSUMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
ADVOCACY OFFICER/PROJECT MANAGER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 32Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Recovery still too slow

Job creation figures for January, released on Friday, continue to present a depressing picture of prospects for the U.S. economy.

A pallid total of 113,000 jobs were created in January, on the heels of an even weaker 74,000 in December. The unemployment rate dropped from 6.7 percent to 6.6 percent, which is good, but it reflects more people dropping out of the labor force in the face of dim prospects.

Those new jobs do not even cover the number of new entries into the job market each month. At that rate of increase it would take years just to get back to pre-2008, pre-recession levels of employment.

Congress has not extended emergency jobless benefits, due mostly to Republican opposition. If there were any truth to some of the looney arguments in Washington for allowing the benefits to end on Dec. 28—namely that such aid discourages the unemployed from seeking work—then more people should have been driven into the job market in January. But they were not.

The economy also has to be rattled by the fact that another government shutdown is threatened by another debt ceiling crisis. House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, has said it won't happen, but his leadership was demonstrated again to be weak by his admission Thursday that, due to opposition by tea party Republicans, immigration reform is unlikely to occur in 2014.

Meanwhile, nothing elsewhere offers much in the way of prospects for improvement of the U.S. economy. Foreign markets, in particular the "Fragile Five"—Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa and Turkey—could see U.S. investment dollars retreat as the Federal Reserve reduces its program of quantitative easing. And Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, has seen its bond rating fall to junk status.

Hope in the spring (next month, officially) always reigns supreme, but it's hard to be hopeful based on this unpromising situation.

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Shirley Temple turned fame into second career

Americans who learned of the death Monday of Shirley Temple Black at age 85 will recall her varied career as an actress, singer, dancer and, later, U.S. ambassador to Ghana and Czechoslovakia.

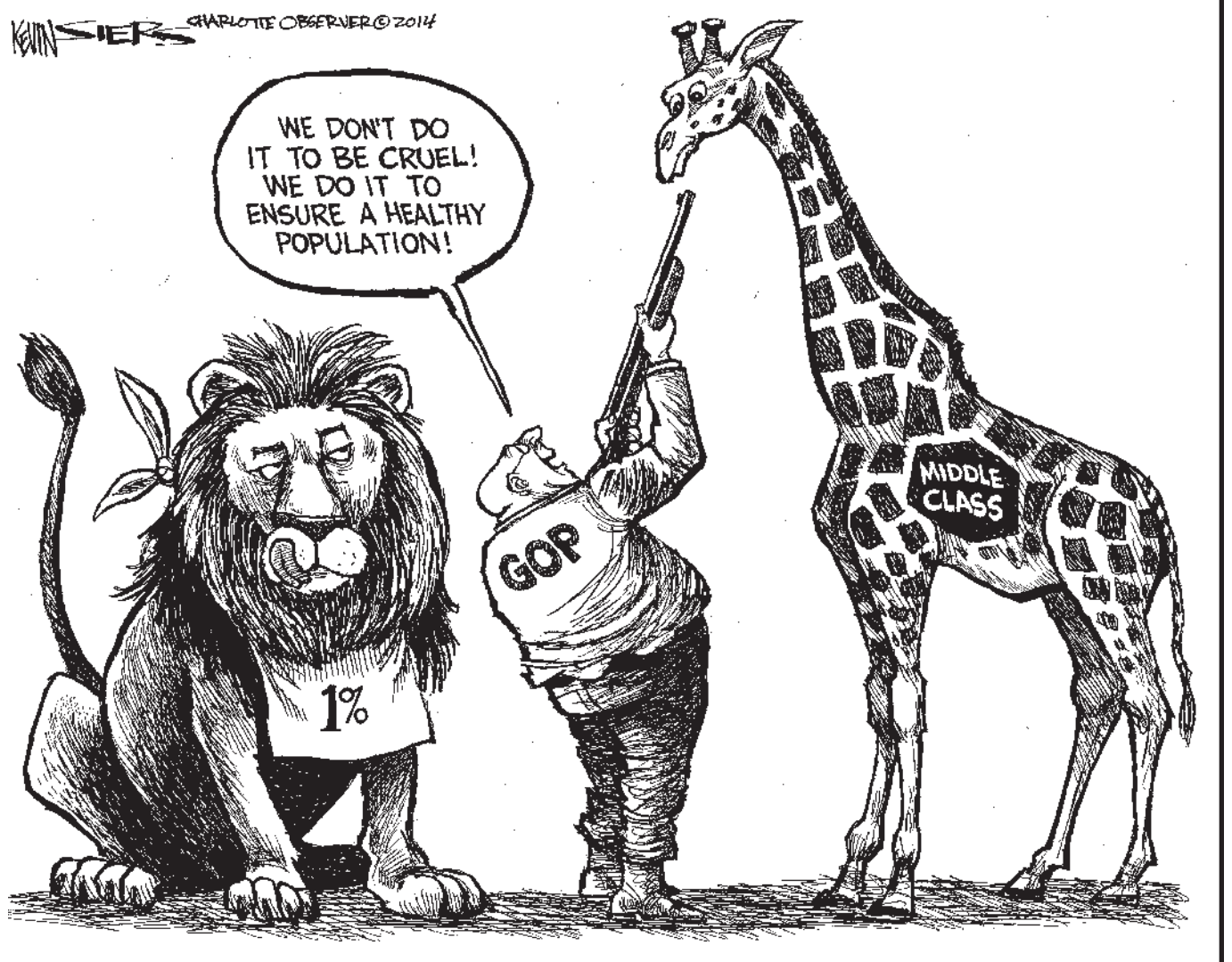
The part of Ms. Temple's life that grabbed the country's heartstrings were her films in the 1930s, in which she typically played an irrepressible, singing, dancing 6-year-old in pin curls. Many of her fans consider her best screen moments to be tap-dance performances, including memorable numbers with tall African-American actor and dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. The contrast between him and little Shirley and their evident talents together were priceless.

Ms. Temple received a special Academy Award in 1935, when she was America's top box-office draw, and a lifetime achievement award from the Screen Actors Guild in 2006.

Her second career was in public service. As a Republican, she ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1967. She had been active on the board of the National Wildlife Federation when President Gerald Ford in 1974 named her ambassador to Ghana. In 1989 President George H.W. Bush appointed her the ambassador to

See TEMPLE on Next Page

KEVIN SIERS CHARLOTTE OBSERVER © 2014



Hamid Karzai's cozy history with the Taliban

If anyone is surprised that with each passing day Afghan President Hamid Karzai seems to veer more sharply away from the U.S. and toward the Taliban, it might be time to remember some history. Karzai himself was once asked to become a high-ranking member of the Taliban government.

His every word and deed of late seems designed to appeal to the Taliban leadership and its backers in Pakistan, and to fracture the partnership between Afghanistan and the American people.

In one recent display, he held a news conference for Afghan villagers who claimed U.S. bombing had killed a dozen neighbors on Jan. 15. They identified mourners in a photograph purportedly taken at a funeral the next day, Jan. 16. But it turned out the photo was from four years back. In fact, it has been featured on Taliban websites, according to the New York Times.

Karzai was indulging in just the type of heavy-handed propaganda we've come to expect of the Taliban itself. He has also ordered the release without trial of three dozen suspected insurgents, some of whom U.S. officers have tied to specific attacks. And, by his refusal to sign a security pact with the United States, he seems to be actively expediting the departure from Afghanistan of all foreign forces.

This behavior is not all born of current events. It is not some recently conceived hedging strategy pegged to the impending U.S. troop draw-down. Rather, it is entirely consistent with Karzai's own past. That past, presumably known to U.S. officials, has shaped his actions since the Taliban regime fell in 2001.

I began noticing the pattern in 2003, when I lived in Kandahar, running a nonprofit founded by Karzai's older brother Qayum. Repeated, perplexing anomalies in Hamid Karzai's decision-making—his choices for filling certain positions, or the way he interacted with specific communities—were so egregious and inexplicable that I was driven to hunt for some underlying logic. I began asking family retainers, neighbors, tribal elders and former resistance commanders what Karzai's relationship with the Taliban had been when the religious militia swept into the city in 1994.

The story I heard, with consistent details, took me aback.

In those days, Kandahar, like most of Afghanistan, was in turmoil. Resistance fighters, who had helped drive the Soviet army out of Afghanistan in 1989, had not disarmed and gone back to tending their orchards. They had turned on one another. Neighborhoods were plowed up in pitched battles, while travelers on the roads were shaken down at gunpoint for money or goods. "If you had five guys with guns, you were the mayor of your street corner," a former bus driver named Hayatullah once told me.

In this context, according to several witnesses, Karzai began holding meetings with many of the proto-Taliban leaders, organizing them into a force that could gain control of Kandahar, and

By SARAH CHAYES

Los Angeles Times

Sarah Chayes, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment, lived in Afghanistan for most of the last decade and served as special assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



eventually the rest of the country. These meetings were taking place across the border in Quetta, Pakistan. And the Pakistani military intelligence agency, the ISI, which has long made use of Islamic extremism to further its policies, supported the project.

In October 1994, the Taliban moved on Afghanistan. "I lived next to the bus station in Quetta," a former refugee named Shafiullah told me. "Busloads and busloads of them left for the border, army officers with them." The Taliban and their Pakistani advisors fought one battle just inside the line, where they captured a weapons cache, then another in the small town of Takhta Pul, halfway to Kandahar. Within a week they owned the city.

One reason the assault went so easily was the work Karzai had done ahead of time. The strongest commander in Kandahar was a thick-bearded tribal elder named Mullah Naqib. For weeks before what amounted to the Taliban invasion, he and others told me, Karzai argued with him to stand his men down so the Taliban could come in. "He told me it was the best thing for Afghanistan," Mullah Naqib recalled in 2004. "He said the Americans supported this." Without Mullah Naqib's tribesmen, no fighting force would last long against the ISI-supported Taliban.

Once in power, the Taliban leadership asked Karzai to be their U.N. ambassador, a position he later said he turned down. My Kandahar sources disputed that claim. And as it turned out, the U.N. never recognized Taliban rule, so the Kabul government could not send an ambassador. According to information found by journalist Roy Gutman in the U.S. National Archives, however, Washington launched a diplomatic demarche to ambassador-designate Karzai in December 1996, requesting the extradition of Osama bin Laden.

None of this is to say that Karzai personally shares the fundamentalist religious ideology espoused by the Taliban. I don't think he is driven by any ideology at all. However, he has repeatedly marched with the Taliban when it has seemed expedient. As he suggested to the Sunday Telegraph's Christina Lamb on Jan. 27, Karzai wants to matter.

U.S. officials and Afghan citizens alike should not assume they will be rid of his influence after next April's presidential election.

Just snow stories

One good thing about sitting in a warm beach chair is that I can think about times when I wasn't sitting in a warm beach chair.

So I'll entertain a little yarn. This yarn conveys that much of what I've learned about business came from when I started shoveling snow in junior high school.

I don't have a grand and unified theory to this stuff. I don't have any profound insights.

Heck, I don't even have an elegant narrative.

But sometimes a few random notes are worth contemplating.

One winter morning, when I was a kid, I looked out of our apartment window. The neighborhood was blanketed under a fat white layer of fresh snow. To the grownups this was an inconvenience. To me, however, it was an invitation to scare up some action.

I was in middle school and just old enough to slip away from the home nest without being interrogated about my intentions.

And I intended to get in the snow removal business.

I walked downtown to a hardware store to buy a snow shovel. The other customers were hurrying through their business, but as a kid with no responsibilities I had the leisure of enjoying my decision. Hey, if you're going to buy something, you might as well like what you're buying.

And what I was buying was going to cost a large portion of my "life savings" at the time, so I wanted to choose my tool wisely.

Eventually, however, a clerk started snipping at me for constantly picking up the shovels and handling them. So I snipped

right back at the guy.

Which I'll rack up as an early lesson in business: It's awfully easy to get derailed by the antipathy of minions, so you just have to stand your ground.

After trudging back to my neighborhood, I canvassed the area, offering to shovel the snow from sidewalks and driveways.

I had no success the first time out.

The next snowfall came a week later.

No luck then, either.

In cold climates, people resent having to open their doors to the inrush of cold air. Being an unsolicited pitch man is not a role for the thin-skinned.

Anyway, when the third time came around, I was still batting zero.

So at some point during that gray day I decided to just start shoveling someone's sidewalk. I didn't have some grand strategy behind this, I was just sick of being bored.

Snow shovels make noise when they reach pavement and grate against it. So on an otherwise quiet day people can hear the action. After a little bit of my shoveling, two neighbors actually beckoned me to serve them.

Talk about a weird inversion of marketing assumptions: When I visited the customers and made my pitch, they couldn't get rid of me fast enough. However, once I was doing what they didn't want me to do, and now that I wasn't pitching anything to anybody, they beat a path to my shovel.

Go figure.

NMI strangled by historic debt

It's troubling the persistent upward spiral of government debts of over a billion dollars today. You add two huge numbers in the current deficit of some \$369 million plus the \$700 million unfunded liability of the Retirement Fund. You pile up other significant obligations and planned pension obligation bond of \$120 million plus \$99 million in interests. It gives you a glimpse of the fiscal impotence of the CNMI of over \$1,189,000,000.

As though unbridled spending isn't a dangerous habit, the CNMI incurs more debts via deficit spending with stunning attitudinal normalcy. Would the local government ably meet the \$45 million annual commitment for retirees under the settlement agreement or do we defer to divine providence? How do we resolve the fiscal mess with paltry revenue of \$135 million? Isn't this what's known as reckless spending?

It's easy to detect the scarcity of visionary leadership at a time when it's most needed. Sadly, it's nonexistent. But we have followers aplenty pushing the wagon wondering why the wheels have gone off and rolling quickly elsewhere.

It doesn't leave much room for optimism doing preliminary ocular review of deficit spending as the cost of living increases, flooring villagers all over the archipelago. Would intercession of some sort help us navigate our sinking canoe that could no longer find safe fiscal port? How much longer must we endure the Fourth of July fireworks in the increase of living in February?

The economic dystopia—where nothing works—is largely attributable to the lack of a thoughtful road map the CNMI could use as it tries to move the needle of growth forward. In short, we've failed to plan FOR eventualities, taking preference to planning BY what happens today. Well, here we are drowning completely underwater, fiscally. We continue spending unhindered, only to dig a deeper and larger hole. What's next?

With a huge debt that consistently piles up by unbridled deficit spending, it doesn't present opportunities for the restoration of the 25-percent cut in pension pay, ease the 40-percent increase in pension plans, help those who had to cancel health insurance policies, or help villagers who'd be slammed hard with increase in the cost of basic goods soon. Yet, there's a plan to load up more debts via pension obligation bonds. Doesn't make sense, does it?

Answer: Anchor investments

There's the obvious disconnect between the public sector and private industries. The unifying agent is a thoughtful and organized plan involving all key players. The agent of change is the collective leadership rallying behind a blueprint to move forward.

Tourism has started rebounding. More hotels are slated for construction with focus on higher paying group of tourists. It's a step in the right direction. It means inviting international brand hotels to the islands. Hyatt is the only one here today.

As we move forward, can the arcane CUC power system support additional hotels, businesses and residential expansions beyond dillydallying with exploratory work on solar, nuclear, and geothermal sources of energy? Would it eventually deliver affordable and reliable power? Or would the complete opposite occur when we all must endure constant power blackouts? It's clear it doesn't have the financial wherewithal to do anything

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



decent so why can't this agency be privatized?

Other anchor investments are in the periphery. Do we welcome them to our shores so we begin rebuilding the woeful fiscal posture of the CNMI? Isn't it time that we fast track wealth and jobs creation? Isn't it true that thousands of our people are jobless today? Would not anchor investment trigger higher paying jobs that gradually fosters equal playing field or standard of living when the ship of economic opportunity lifts all boats? Would not anchor investment provide stability on investment, steady and sturdy revenue streams?

The CNMI is faced with other substantive issues it must address and resolve. There's a need for the eventual establishment of NMC into a reputable four-year institution capable of leading research and development. Such work would eventually translate into policy decisions based on mega analysis. Are we prepared to move in this direction?

Moreover, let's say that we wish to manufacture a certain hi-tech item for sale at the global market. Would it not be true that the investor would critically review our educational system to see if in fact we produce students who excel in math and science? It is for this reason that I'm saying the work ahead is far more critical thus the dire need for realistic sets of plans. We can't continue second-guessing our future. We must buckle down to defining it from A-Z.

This is just the tip of the iceberg among the list of major issues we must resolve for posterity. It boils down to defining our future on a realistic basis beyond village signs, cockfights, and the prohibition of drying panties in Garapan.

In troubled paradise

The journalistic tool of detachment has granted this battered son the opportunity to exit contentious issues by humming in soulful fashion, *Lullaby and Good Night*. It is relaxing and opens up another bright new morning to reset buttons or put issues into contextual perspective.

I relish the opportunity listening to fever-pitch assertions for more self-government while the very government before us has gone belly up—bankrupt. It's fodder for comedy quizzing who missed what—did I miss anything or are events unfolding factually nonfiction? It's an interesting query all the way around where more airheads are talking, nobody's speaking or listening.

There's despondency as night comes around for another restful evening watching comedy on television. It's the only way to retain sanity. The next day I had to dismiss the less significant focusing on what really matters. A wonderful hobby treading the failed promise of "better times" in seriously troubled paradise.

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



Anyway, by the end of that season I had a roster of regular customers. When the next winter rolled around, I pretty much just shored up my action from the first one.

By the time the third winter came along, I owned a large snow blower, which is sort of like a lawn mover for snow. This thing drank a lot of gasoline and made a lot of noise. Which is to say, it was highly cool.

There was no fourth winter for me; my family moved to warm California. This was the end of my action in small-time snow removal.

But there is no shame in small-time. As I was pondering those small-time days I decided to convert my memories into inflation-adjusted terms.

The result? Well, in terms of today's dollars, I was making about \$30 an hour. This became my rent-and-pizza money in college.

But college is getting far beyond my context here, so I'll just hunker down in my beach chair and enjoy the warm sunshine.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Unanswered questions

Let's look at the issue of CUC and the issue of revenue generation. In the past, we were looking at the need to increase and expand power generation capacity. Now it appears that we have the capacity but cannot generate the revenue to maintain that capacity. As many understand, power generation is designed to meet the peak need of the community. Like the church in most villages, the size is designed to accommodate all patrons during New Year's Day but less than half full on regular days.

It is very clear that supply and demand plays a major role in the revenue stream for CUC. When they increased the price of electricity, the community reduced their use, therefore revenue went down accordingly. Worse, some businesses turned to their own power generation for their power need, further affecting CUC's revenue. The Legislature passed a net metering law designed to help businesses and households get into alternative energy to reduce dependency on CUC. CUC put up a moratorium on that practice. They even passed a law requiring CUC to have 80 percent of their power coming from alternative energy source. I believe either they amended this law or scrapped it altogether as it appear to be unrealistic and cannot be achieved. However, it is a move in the right direction.

If you look deeper into the philosophy of CUC using the court order for protection and justification for their actions, you can conclude that they are acting for their own interest and their survival as opposed to the interest and survival of the community and the businesses in it. The net metering law is for the good of the household and the business community but of course it will reduce the revenue for CUC.

Now ask yourself the question: Who is the CUC created for? Is it for the good of the people? Or is it for the good of the CUC and those working in it? Why the moratorium on alternative energy that they even applied on Rota, which only has one Korean businessman operating a poker establishment with solar power? Is that already a major threat to CUC revenue? What in the world is going on and who is our government trying to protect?

Frank M. Atalig

Sinapalo I, Rota

TEMPLE

From Page 10

then Czechoslovakia.






Those who knew Ms. Temple as a diplomat found her unfailingly charming, with a vibrant sense of humor. Leaders of the countries where she served considered her, as a non-career political ambassador, to have useful connections to official Washington and were charmed by her allure as an American star.

Shirley Temple Black's movies are still on cable television and, despite the passage of time, are a joy to see. Her years in government, though, are proof that life can have a second act.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

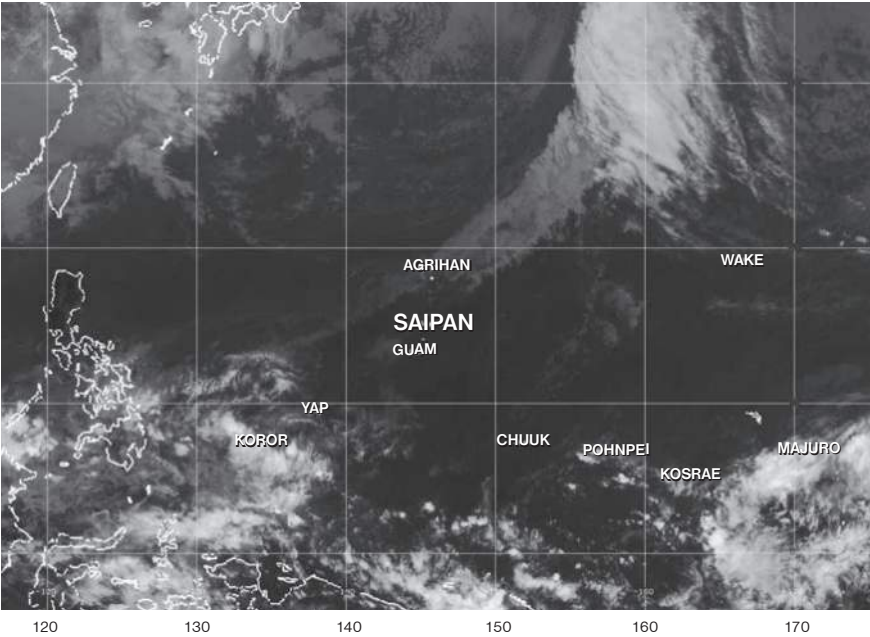
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 60
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 29
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 61
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 70
London	Rain	▲ 48 ▼ 46
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 57
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 73
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 59
Miami	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 57
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 38 ▼ 28
Osaka	Showers	▲ 44 ▼ 40
Paris	Rain	▲ 47 ▼ 45
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 50 ▼ 35
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 43
Salem	Rain	▲ 51 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 51
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 27
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 39
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 26

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
8:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
7:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends from 25N155E to 18N148E then continues as a shear line to beyond 10N130E east of 142E scattered showers can be found along and up to 250 miles northwest of the boundary and west of 142E. The scattered showers only extend 100 miles north of the boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends from 6N130E to EQ150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found over Palau south of a line that extends from 10N130E to 4N140E. A surface trough extends from EQ168E to 7N176E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough cover a large portion of the Marshall Islands between the equator and 7N from 165E to 170E and between 2N and 9N from 170E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Monday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:45 PM	5:48 AM
Saturday	6:33 PM	6:28 AM
Sunday	7:21 PM	7:08 AM
Monday	8:09 PM	7:47 AM
Tuesday	8:58 PM	8:26 AM

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily		UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily		UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily	
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota		UA5039	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
					UA5038	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota	
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6						
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily		UA5077	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily		UA5079	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)					GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				
UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5038	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6	
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)					ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				
UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5038	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)					OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ101	8:30am	2:00pm	3	
OZ102	2:20am	5:50am	3		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ103	7:30pm	1:00am+1	6	
OZ6063	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
					OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
OZ104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6		OZ6053	9:10pm	2:30am+1	3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5		MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		PR110/UA5072	7:35am	5:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:05am	3, 6 via GUM		DL172/288	7:45am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT	
DL287/473	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT		UA190/5077	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 7 via Guam	
UA5068/PR111	8:40am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA190/5079	10:00am	5:35pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5039/183	1:35pm	9:30pm	5 via Guam		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5039/183	1:35pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Guam		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM		UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		UA184/5071	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
UA5078/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM						
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN						
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA5038/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM		UA180/5071	11:10pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN						
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN)					TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN				
D2884	10:45am	2:45pm	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24		D2885	4:45pm	12:20am +1	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
D2880	4:30pm	8:00pm	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27		D2881	10:00pm	5:15am +1	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH)					WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN				
D2882	11:00am	3:15pm	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26		D2883	5:15pm	12:20am +1	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
RE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
RE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
RE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
RE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
RE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
RE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
RE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
RE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
RE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
RE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
RE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
RE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

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William Fisher, MPAS, PA-C is a certified physician assistant. Mr. Fisher provides services in pediatric, adult, and geriatric medicine, as well as urgent care.



Bertha Camacho, NP is a certified nurse practitioner. She provides services in general women's health including prenatal care, gynecological problem management, physical exams, and STD screening and treatment.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To Mr. Hunter and Mr. Governor

Mr. Robert Hunter, good for you and those who knows the governor and those who live on Saipan. No offense but try living on Tinian and Rota. If you were in our shoes, you'll probably understand why I'm asking those questions.

Since the beginning of this settlement hearing, we are always left out. The only time we were allowed to participate in the court hearing of the Retirement Fund was on the final hearing of the settlement where we didn't know much to be able to voice our opinion.

Let me ask this question: Wasn't it the governor's duty to address or stand on behalf of the people who voted for him during this settlement? The other question I want to ask is, Betty Johnson had more than one attorney and they were paid higher than our attorney. Had our governor hired attorneys like those hired by Betty Johnson, would it have made a difference? On Sept. 30, 2013, I was surprised when Judge Tydingco-Gatewood mentioned that the attorney hire by our governor was the cheapest. Don't you think we deserve better? Betty had three attorneys. What if the governor hired three attorneys for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota?

Yes, you're right; there is a lot I don't know about. The only thing that matters to me is how all these positive moving forward going to help improve our problems, if our leaders continue to leave a mess for new leaders to clean up. And corrupted leaders are voted again and again. Don't you think it's time they start making laws to put to justice those who neglect their duties or intentionally corrupt the system for conflict of interest?

To me, a leader is not afraid to say or do anything if he is not guilty of anything. Leaders listen and help their people to make things better. Not just relatives or friends. A leader is always ready with answers when his or her administration is questioned.

Sorry, Mr. Governor, I'm just cautious on whom to vote for this coming election, and I need to know who fits your position. The economy is dying here on Tinian and you continue to do the same things over and over. I mean you continue to employ people whom you don't really need and corrupt the system. If you hire an expensive expert that can do the job of five people presently employed, you probably will make a difference.

Show us how serious you are in saving energy by enforcing strict regulations in shutting usage that are not needed after working hours within government office. Make sure that all expenditures are accounted for, and make it available for us to know since we are paying for the fuel charges. Share your plans on economic development with your people, and report your plans and accomplishments. Make sure that training and college are available for the people of Tinian and Rota. Why is there is no trade institute here available for the people of Tinian and Rota? How can your people work or replace those CWs if there is no training or college available for the jobs that they want to learn how to do? When and how are you going to fix the transportation and food shortage problem on Rota? What are your plans in coming up with and income guidelines for those families who are now struggling in this economy?

Now that your report card is good on Saipan, how about improving it here on Tinian and Rota?

Please Mr. Governor, have pity on us and help us get to where we are going to. Also, please give an answer on when and how you plan to pay us the interest so that we can move forward with Saipan.

Winnie Atalig,
San Jose, Tinian



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High counselor-to-students ratio in public schools

» 51% of PSS students found reading below grade level

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The availability of counselors in public schools remains uneven, with many having either a high counselor-to-student ratio or no counselors at all, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

She also disclosed that more than half of public school enrollees this year have been found reading below their grade levels.

Sablan, guest speaker in last Friday's special workshop for PSS counselors, revealed these figures as she encouraged counselors and school leaders to seriously take their part in making a difference in the lives of their students.

PSS is home to 10,000-plus students from kindergarten to high school.

At Garapan Elementary School, for instance, Sablan cited the extremely high number of students being served by just one counselor, Derwin Johnson.

"At GES, we have one counselor for all 800 students. That's really a lot!" she said Friday as she lauded the hard work of school counselors like Johnson—this year's State Counselor

of the Year awardee.

According to Sablan, public schools have only 25 counselors this year.

It was learned that four schools do not have any counseling staff at all.

Sablan disclosed that Koblerville Elementary School, which has over 700 students, along with Tinian elementary, Tanapag elementary, and Dandan elementary schools, just receive counseling assistance from their cluster schools.

"It's never enough. PSS has 10,000 kids and we need more than 25 counselors. Through the school clusters that we put together, four of our schools are just sharing their [counseling staff] with partner schools," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that anything beyond 300 students for every counselor is difficult for any school district.

In large campuses like GES, Sablan said that school administrators have been helping counsel students to ensure that students' needs are met.

Reading level

Also on Friday, Sablan said the latest PSS report indicates that more than half of students in the

system are not reading at their grade levels.

"Of all the things that we do, why is it that we continue to see 51 percent of our students reading below grade level? We need to seriously look at this number and do something!" said Sablan.

PSS conducts a standard based assessment test each year and includes a test that measures the reading level skills of students.

Studies suggest that students who are proficient in reading or writing within their grade level are more likely to complete their education.

In providing a better understanding of the PSS situation, Sablan shared with participants other data that would help the

system in planning initiatives, services, and programs.

For example, in the CNMI, six out of 10 students in public schools are at the poverty threshold.

"Just imagine the kind of population we're working with. I am not trying to paint a grim picture here, but this is the reality," she said.

She also lamented the over 90 percent of NMC students who are placed in remedial education once they enter NMC. It was learned that about 200 students who graduated from PSS last year enrolled at NMC. This represents 40 percent of the total number of graduates last school year.

"We have a lot of students who remain undecided [to go

to college]. Where did they go?" she asked, pointing out that this group is not even in gainful employment. She relates this to the 2010 Census data where it found that there are 10,000 unemployed individuals on the islands.

The PSS report also indicated that there are 3,000 individuals ages 18-35 who don't have high school diplomas.

Other data presented were PSS' record of daily students' attendance where it found that approximately 300 students are out of classes each day in public schools.

Betel-nut chewing remains on top of the list of student infractions. She emphasized the need for PSS to work with the community in addressing this issue.

Next with the highest infraction is "excessive tardiness" while possession of a controlled substance like alcohol or drugs is third. Bullying, harassment, and assault are also on the list.

"What can we do to help them? Let's think about that," she told participants.

Despite these challenges, Sablan said that PSS continues to receive positive feedback from the community and that continues to inspire the system.

She told *Saipan Tribune* it is important to regularly update educators of key data on various areas for better performance outcome.

"Our focus [on Friday] was really sharing our success and best practices as we continue to collaborate," she said.

Iglesia ni Cristo walk to benefit Haiyan victims

The Iglesia Ni Cristo will be holding a walk for a cause on both Saipan and Tinian tomorrow, Feb. 15, for victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) to help families affected by the strongest typhoon on record.

On Saipan, the "Iglesia Ni Cristo Worldwide Walk for those Affected by Typhoon Yolanda" will start across Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe all the way to Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park. On Tinian, the walk will start from Airport Road to Taga Beach. Both start at 5am.

"The amount that will be raised through this activity will be allocated by the church through the FYM Foundation as additional assistance to our countrymen, especially our brethren who were devastated by supertyphoon Yolanda," said Edwil Zabala, minister of the gospel, citing the INC circular.

Organizers noted that INC aims to generate more awareness about the state of those affected by Yolanda and hopes to set an example in helping them.

INC executive minister Eduardo V. Manalo recently approved the holding of the activity in cooperation with its socio-civic arm, Felix Y. Manalo Foundation.

A circular was read in local congregations of the INC all over the world last Jan. 11 and 12 that announced to all church members worldwide the plan to hold the event, dubbed as the

"Iglesia Ni Cristo Worldwide Walk for those Affected by Typhoon Yolanda."

"This activity aims not only to remember our fellowmen who were affected by the severe calamity that struck the Philippines, but most of all to help them recover from their current miserable condition," reads the INC circular.

Organizers of the event disclosed that this walk for a cause will be staged in 85 sites in the Philippines and 55 more sites across globe, 34 in the USA; six in Europe; 10 in Australia/New Zealand; and five in Asia.

The activity is just one of the events being undertaken by the INC as it prepares for its centennial this year.

The INC was first preached by its first executive minister, Felix Y. Manalo, and was registered with the Philippine government on July 27, 1914. It maintains at least 5,500 local congregations spread in about 100 countries and territories worldwide.

Supertyphoon Haiyan killed thousands in the central Philippines and displaced or affected almost four million persons, mostly in the Visayas region.

Registration for the INC Worldwide Walk is ongoing at all INC houses of worship.

For more information about the INC Worldwide Walk, email info.incwwwalk@gmail.com or call (632) 9175237102, (632) 9067220104, or (632) 9057081840. (*Saipan Tribune*)

GOOD NEWS!

U-LUCK POKER

is happy to announce that we are having a raffle to acknowledge all our valued customers.
We want to express our deepest gratitude by having the following raffles.

GRAND PRIZE!

2014 TOYOTA YARIS

WORTH \$18,800



1st Prize

ROUND TRIP TICKET FROM SAIPAN TO NEW YORK, USA
(2 WINNERS)
WORTH \$1500/EA.

2nd Prize

ROUND TRIP TICKET FROM SAIPAN TO SHANGHAI, CHINA
(2 WINNERS)
WORTH \$1000.00/EA.

3rd Prize

ONE WEEK ACCOMODATION AT SUNSHINE GARDEN
(2 WINNERS)
WORTH \$623.00/EA.

4th Prize

SCOOTER
(2 WINNERS)
WORTH \$500.00/EA.

5th Prize

GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR SUNSHINE RESTAURANT
(2 WINNERS)
WORTH \$200.00/EA.

Please see the table chart below on how to get your raffle ticket

BET	STRAIGHT FLUSH	5 OF A KIND	ROYAL FLUSH
10 bet - 18 bet (\$0.05)	2 ticket	4 ticket	8 ticket
5 bet (\$0.25)	2 ticket	5 ticket	25 ticket
6 bet - 10 bet (\$0.25)	5 ticket	10 ticket	50 ticket
11 bet - 20 bet (\$0.25)	10 ticket	20 ticket	100 ticket
21 bet - 40 bet (\$1.00)	20 ticket	40 ticket	200 ticket

"ALL PRIZES CAN'T BE EXCHANGE INTO CASH"

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
January 13, 2014

To All Our Valued Customers:

We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to all our valued customers by giving good prizes on our raffle promo, but unfortunately, the Department of Finance informed us that the regulations specifically limits the prizes to merchandise valuing less than \$35,000.00 and prohibits cash prizes.

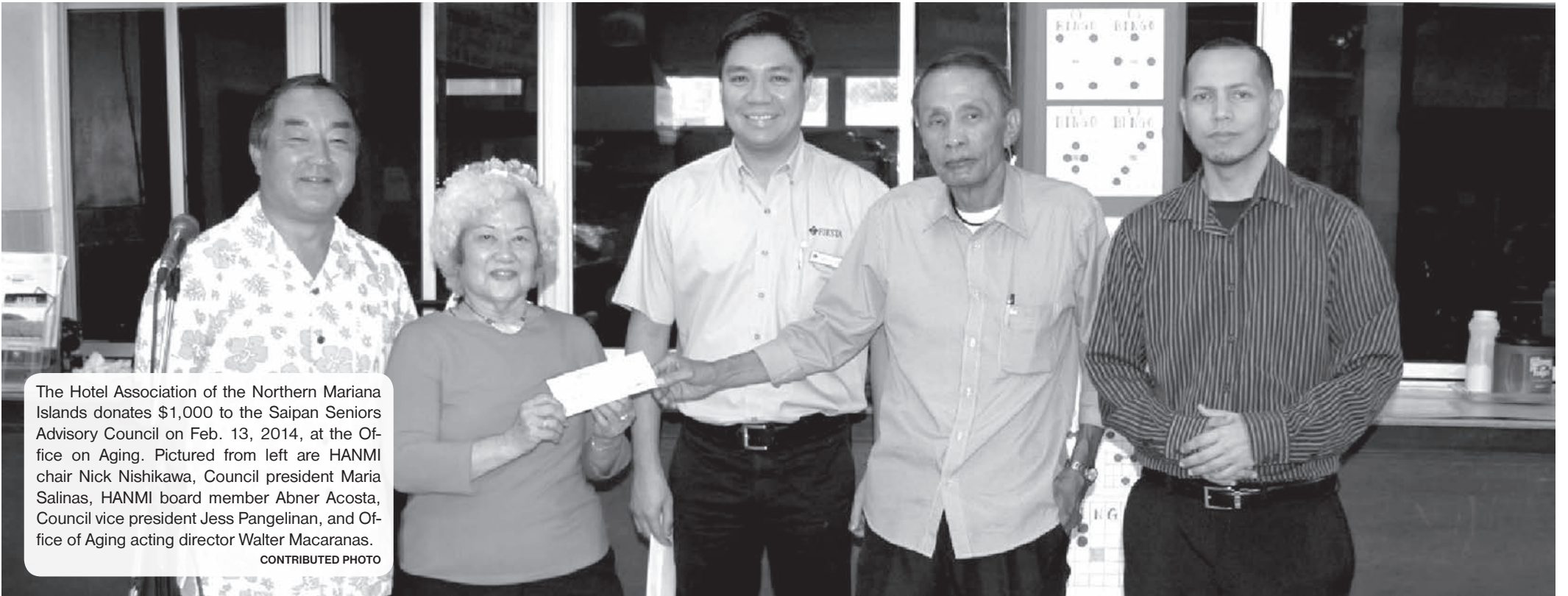
We would like to express our deepest apology regarding the changes we've had to make in order for our raffle promo to go on.

We hope for your understanding and continued support.

U-LUCK POKER MANAGEMENT

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58 days left before raffle day! Raffle date: April 12, 2014



The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands donates \$1,000 to the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council on Feb. 13, 2014, at the Office on Aging. Pictured from left are HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa, Council president Maria Salinas, HANMI board member Abner Acosta, Council vice president Jess Pangelinan, and Office of Aging acting director Walter Macaranas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

The People's Party: Rebuilding the Commonwealth



An Invitation from the People's Party

All citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands are openly invited to a gathering of friendship, partnership, fellowship and kinship by the DEMOCRATIC PARTY of the Northern Marianas-The People's Party, to its General Membership Meeting on Saturday, February 22, 2014, at Garapan Central Park, beginning at 4:00 P.M.

Highlighting the agenda for this meeting includes the election of members into the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas' Central Executive Committee CEC. Following the official INDUCTION of Central Executive Committee CEC members, election of party officers will take place thereafter. Gracing the afternoon event are musical entertainment and performances by local bands and singers plus food and refreshment.

IF YOU ARE:

- A retiree suffering from 25% pension cut and 40% increase in insurance premium payment;
- An ordinary citizen emotionally and financially exhausted living from crisis-to-crisis;
- A senior citizen struggling hard to make co-payments on prescription medications due to continued economic hard times;
- A father of 4 children and active government employee who no longer have future retirement security;
- A local US citizen unable to find employment that pays livable wages;
- A typical family member forced to choose making payment on CUC inflated power rate or risk disconnection of services;
- A land owner waiting for years and unable to receive just payment for the use of his/her property by the government;
- A Northern Marianas Descent frustrated by an administration that aided and abated in refusing to remit millions of dollars in collected lease proceeds to MPLT;
- A victim of political retribution;
- A government employee fearful of employment dislocation;
- A local business owner who is forced to shut down a lifetime family business operations due to maltreatment and indifferent government policies;
- An aging Grandma already lost hope on those tested leaders who promised BETTER TIMES but only managed to show increases in crimes;
- A potential business operator greatly discouraged by blatant "Special Treatment Policy" practices;
- Newly wed local couples looking forward to raising a family on island but was greatly disappointed to witness deep mistrust in government officials;
- Middle-age college degree holder who came back home to help in the development of the CNMI only to be met with impenetrable political barriers;
- A faithful voter exercising his/her duty voting for his/her representatives but was dismayed by their arrogance and lacked of empathy;
- A single mother of twin girls desperately seeking dignified relief from the constant stress of financial uncertainty;
- A proud Chamolinian who is just fed up of more than 15 years of life full of misery and despair without foreseeable hope for a descent livelihood;
- A disappointed and disenfranchised Covenant or Republican member; or
- An independent minded member of our community just wishing to be part of a dynamic and inclusive political organization, the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas extends an embracing welcome, welcome back, and welcome home to your permanent political membership, where membership is not based on the power of your pocket-book, but rather on the strength of your commitment and dedication to make our Commonwealth a secured and proud home for all of our people.

Please come and join in a new movement of political empowerment based on what you can do for your community rather than what your community can do for you. We owe this loyalty to ourselves, our children, and our future. The Democratic Party believes in maximizing the legal and political assets of the Covenant and Constitution to invest in the limitless potential of our citizens.

Happy Valentine's Day from the **Democratic Party**

"THE PEOPLE'S PARTY: REBUILDING THE COMMONWEALTH"

HANMI donates \$1K to *man'amko* council

The Office on Aging's congregants applauded and cheered yesterday as officials of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands turned over a donation of \$1,000 to the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council.

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, who chairs HANMI, together with Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan general manager Abner Acosta, presented the check to Council president Maria Salinas and vice president Jess Pangelinan, in the presence of Office on Aging's acting director Walter Manglona.

Nishikawa said their organization has been doing this donation for the past five years.

HANMI used to provide lunch services for the Aging Center's *man'amko* but later switched to monetary contributions. He said it will be up to the Council to decide what to do with the money.

Nishikawa said the hotel business has been getting better and they just want to support and contribute to the community. He hopes that by doing so, the community will help the only moneymaking industry in the Northern Marianas.

Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* that the donation would make the *man'amko*'s trip to Guam a lot easier. "The *man'amko* are really happy and we really appreciate that the hotels are thinking about the elderly on Saipan," he added.

Other than the check donation, Hyatt has also been supporting the *man'amko* by allowing them to use their pools twice a month for physical workouts. Fiesta helps by hosting them during events, mostly holidays.

Nishikawa said, "In Japanese culture it is important to respect your elders." He said this is the same as the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures where the elderly are treated with the utmost importance and respect. *(Jayson Camacho)*

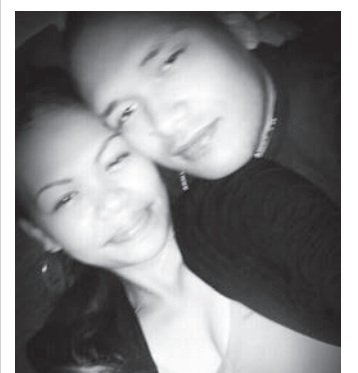


BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 1st birthday to my princess, Josalynn Josel Pangelinan San Nicolas, and many more wishes, baby girl! We are lucky to have you in our lives that we enjoy every moment we have with you. I hope you enjoy this special day and may it be filled with blessings. We love you so much baby girl! Greetings come from Jose, Mommy, and Daddy.



Happy 13th birthday to Kody Angel B. Rabauliman! We love and God bless you. Greetings come from your 670 family (Dandan).



HAPPY HEARTS DAY!

Happy Valentine's Day to the two lovebirds, Vince and Chelle! We love you guys a bunch! Enjoy this special day with lots of love. Greetings coming out from family and friends near and far.



Six new graduates of DFS' Journeyman Program smile for the camera after the graduation rites yesterday at the DFS Saipan in Garapan.

JAYSON CAMACHO

DFS graduates six more Journeymen

Tears and laughter were shared yesterday morning as DFS Saipan held its Journeyman Graduation ceremony for six sales associates.

DFS general manager Bruce Lorange said this "is a very special day" and that he is pleased with the hard work shown by the new graduates.

"I can't express enough how proud I am because, together with their managers and col-

leagues, we've watched them and saw them through their difficulties," Lorange said.

The program featured speeches from the graduates and a class video. Certificates were presented to the graduates, who later ended the program with a short dance number.

One of the graduates, Miao Wang Larimer, said she is "very excited and proud to be selected as a Journeyman," and she is

thankful to the team, managers, and coworkers who helped her through it.

A tearful Tomoko T. Esteves could barely express her gratitude but managed to say, "I thank everybody and the team from the bottom of my heart."

DFS' Learning & Development specialist Iris J. Gaza said the Journeyman Graduation is intended to recognize all the hard work the graduates did throughout the year.

The Journeyman Program consists of four classes, which includes observations, working, homework, and exams that they have to pass with at least 90 as their score.

The program's goal is to continue raising the level of service for customers and, with the new knowledge and training the graduates learn through the pro-

gram, they can help other sales associates and new staff.

The program selects about six to eight potential sales associates and trains them with special, additional training. The graduates can choose to become managers or remain as sales associates, but their new training provides them with new choices in their career path.

So far the program has produced a total of 14 graduates, two of whom have left the island. DFS currently has 12 Journeymen left.

To be a possible Journeyman, they must apply to be in the program and get the recommendation of their managers and another coworker.

The Journeyman Program at DFS is exclusive to the company and has been going on for two years. (Jayson Camacho)

2013 LITTLE MISS PUSONG PINOY

Talents of young candidates bared

Dancing is the most popular talent of candidates for this Sunday's 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy set at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

In a list provided by United Filipino Organization president Annamae Adaza, 11 out of the 21 contestants will be dancing, while eight will be singing. Only Ariel Allyssa Legaspi has opted for a talent other than singing or dancing, as the 7-year-old Green Meadow School student will be doing declamation.

The 11 contestants who chose to dance on stage come Feb. 16 are Claire Elaiza Barrozo, Chyla Jeremy T. Aquino, Trisha Joyce McCarthy, Angel Lou D. Buensalido, Francine Joy Ebuena, Ramona Camacho, Tricia Mae V. Faustino, Donna Rose U. Santiago, Alyrose B. Santos, Charice T. Silvano, and Shanna Mae Villaluz.

The eight participants who will be singing during the talent portion of the 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy are Jane Nicole Mozunder, Queen Anne H. Rectitud, Angelica May A. Aquino, Lyssa Rae P. Steele, Angela Marie B. Maratas, Shaina Heart A. Dimalanta, Juliet D. Inocencio, and Jasmin Asia P. Pinili.

Sponsored by Docomo Pacific and LBC Mabuhay, the beauty pageant is for girls 6-9 years old with at least one parent who is 100 percent Filipino.

It starts at 6pm.

The 20 candidates for the 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy will compete for eight special awards: Miss Photogenic, Miss Friendship, Darling of the Crowd, Star of the Night, LBC's Best in Smile, Docomo's Spirit Award, Best in Talent, and Best in Evening Gown.

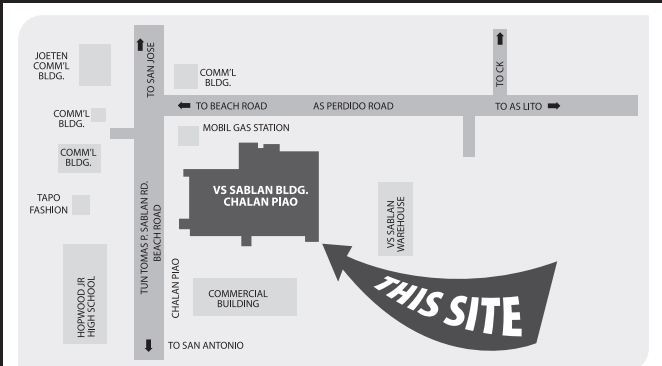
The grand prize winner will receive \$800; first runner-up, \$500; second runner-up, \$300; third runner-up, \$100; and fourth runner-up, \$100. Non-winners will be presented with consolation cash prizes, certificates of participation, and gift packs from Natasha Service Center.

Guest performers include 2013 CNMI Got Talent competition grand prize winner Bernice Shane Sabino, her brother Gio, and dancing siblings Jiro and Jea Montenejo of the Saipan Music & Dance Studio.

Adaza said UFO will be assessing a \$1 entrance fee for the 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy, which entitles ticket-holders to join a raffle. She assured that everyone will go home with a prize from the raffle.

For more information on the 2014 Little Miss Pusong Pinoy, call Adaza at 483-5237, Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, event director Ernie Molina at 789-8212, or Ester Sablan at 789-5553. (Mark Rabago)

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Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-2454 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.



PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ELECTRONIC GAMING SITE OPERATOR LICENSES

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude S. Hofschneider are soliciting proposals for the issuance of Electronic Game Site Operator licenses ("Electronic Game Site Operator"). Proposals for electronic gaming sites must comply with all requirements of P.L. 18-30 and associated regulations and be capable of meeting strict licensing requirements. Prospective applicants should familiarize themselves with these requirements prior to submittal as the proposal requirements are extensive and require an initial application fee of five thousand dollars (\$5,000). Each gaming site must be a physical part of a Saipan hotel with a minimum of one hundred active hotel rooms or an operational golf course. Gaming Sites will be required to operate one hundred (100) electronic gaming devices all of which must comply with Commonwealth Electronic Gaming Regulations. The license for operation of the Electronic Gaming Site will be for a five-year period. The Commonwealth has limited the number of licenses to no more than ten (10), however licenses will only be issued to applicants that meet the specific standards and objectives of the Commonwealth. Qualifications will be evaluated based on the factors as identified in the table below.

Element
Financial capacity of proposer
Gaming experience
Proposed gaming area design
Business Plan

The Request for Proposals ("RFP") will be available on February 21, 2013 from the Office of the Governor, Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (670-664-2200). Submittals must precisely follow the format identified in the RFP and comply with all requirements.

All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 7, 2014 (ChST) to Office of the Governor via fax to (670-664-2211). All proposals must be sealed and marked "Electronic Game Site Operator License" and in compliance with the request for proposal and submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 31, 2014 (ChST) to:

Office of the Governor, Eloy S. Inos
Caller Box 10007
Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and proposers bear all risk concerning delivery. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

Day care providers complete NMC training



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute recently awarded certificates to 28 day care providers for completing the "Infant & Toddler Care Training" and the "Disabilities Awareness Training" sponsored by CDI and the Department of Cultural Affairs – Child Care Development Fund. In this photo are CDI instructors and the director of Community Development Institute, Floyd Masga, standing far left; CDI program manager, Les Ogomoro-Uludong, seated, fifth from left; and CCDF administrator Maribel Loste, seated, seventh from left.

The Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute recently presented certificates of competence to a total of 28 day care center providers who successfully completed the "Infant & Toddler Care Training" and the "Disabilities Awareness Training" facilitated by CDI and the Department of Community &

Cultural Affairs – Child Care Development Fund.

Under the Infant and Toddler Care Training, 14 day care providers received 70 hours of training that focused on five core modules: Social-Emotional Growth & Socialization, Learning & Development, Health & Safety Considerations for Infant/Toddler Care, Culture, Family, & Providers, and

Group Care.

The 14 providers who received certificates at the end of the training were Elvira Beljamen, Petelyn Camacho, Rowena Cervantes, Gaudencia Corilla, Elena Dariguez, Lea Rosemarie Gaspar, Anastacia Ledesma Japson, Maricel Javier, Rhona Martinez, Ma. Cristina Pecson, Mayla Santos, Soledad Santos,

Aura Aleli Simbulan, and Rebecca Estoya Urbano.

Under the Disabilities Awareness Training, 14 other day care center providers completed 15 hours of professional development activities where students learned topics such as: What is Special Education; Strategies on Special Needs; Reaching out through Agencies and Organizations in the Disabilities Field; Individual Education Plan & the Process; and IEP versus the 504 Plan.

The participants who successfully completed the training

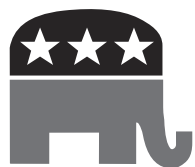
are Romeo Silvano, Joanne Ordona, Julieta Baroro, Anita Delgado, Jocelyn Hornilla, Emma Belarde, Yeldez Javier, Jocelyn Eusebio, Me Ae Kim, Diomedes Lenon, Junnie Masga, Milagros Merjilla, Riza Pasaylo, and Hedeliza Posadas.

Both trainings were funded by CCDF, which is a federally funded program whose ongoing quality child care initiative is to support CCDF providers, teachers, and caregivers to increase their knowledge and skills in the care of young children. By supporting professional devel-

opment of these individuals, improved outcomes for young children are realized.

NMC's Community Development Institute is a program that offers specialized courses and customized trainings in order to meet both the professional development and personal enrichment needs of the community.

For more information about NMC's Community Development Institute, contact the CDI Office 237-6808/6809/6810 or email CDI program manager, Les Ogomoro-Uludong, at les.ogumoro@marianas.edu. (NMC)



Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association
"CNMI Republican Party"
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 P.O. Box 502825, Saipan, MP 96950

GOP SPECIAL INVITATION

The CNMI Republican Party and the Committee-To-Elect **Eloy S. Inos** and **Ralph DLG. Torres** for **Governor** and **Lt. Governor** for the 2014 General Election are inviting all members, family, friends, and supporters of the Republican Party to come and join us in a special **Picnic** this coming Sunday, February 16, 2014. The Picnic will be held at the beach area next to the Tronkon Daok and the 4-H Club Building in Susupe, Saipan.

Event: Republican Party Family Picnic & Get-Together
Date: February 16, 2014 (Sunday)
Time: Starts at 10:00am
Place: Susupe Beach Area next to the Tronkon Daok and the 4-H Club Building.

Lots of good food and great entertainment will be provided for your enjoyment. Please come and meet your Republican Party candidates as we celebrate this special picnic together. If you need further information, please contact the GOP Office at (670) 233-4467 (4GOP) or email at cnmigop2014@gmail.com.

Thank you, Si Yuus Maase, Ghilisow

Paid for by the CNMI Republican Party, Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero, Treasurer

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Garage sale fundraiser tomorrow

The MP United Football Club U12 will be hosting a Garage Sale Fundraiser for their trip to Japan on March 20-24. The garage sale will be held tomorrow, Feb. 15, at the Kilili Pavilion in Susupe, from 7.30am to 12pm. (PR)

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency, Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker Kim Peterson will present on the benefits of yoga and holistic healing. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

CCA board meeting on Feb. 18

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program

updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

Free business seminars

The CNMI Small Business Development Center presents a series of free business seminars.

TINIAN: Health Insurance for Small Business, Feb. 21, 2014, from 10am to 12pm, at the Tinian's Northern Marianas College Room-D.

ROTA: Health Insurance for Small Business, Feb. 27, 2014, from 10am to 12pm, at the Rota's Northern Marianas College Room A-2.

Online registration at pishdcn.eccenterdirect.com or call for pre-registration at (670) 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com. (PR)

Military training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 15, from 8am to 7pm. The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

MIFICPA sets annual tax seminar

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, or MIFICPA, invites the public to this year's tax seminar on Feb. 15, 2014, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm at the Seaside Hall, Kanoa Resort. This year's tax seminar will focus on tax updates for 2014, changes in tax laws, tax filing requirements. Registration starts at 7:30am.

Registration fee for members is \$20 (includes \$5 membership renewal). Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee, which includes refreshments and a certificate of attendance.

For reservation and more details, call or email Olive Aninon at 287-6587 (olive.mificpa@gmail.com); Noli Santos at 285-6810 (nolsantos@yahoo.com); Irene Santiago at 286-1106 (irene_saipan@yahoo.com); Eloisa Agustin at 287-9367 (eloi18@yahoo.com); or Anabelle Lubi (anabelle_ramos@yahoo.com). (MIFICPA)

Hawaii considers making it official with ukulele

HONOLULU (AP)—Its frisky four strings are the sound of Elvis's "Blue Hawaii," of Tiny Tim tiptoeing through the tulips and lately, beyond all reason, of a popular "Bohemian Rhapsody" cover.

Above all, the humble ukulele—dubbed "the underdog of all instruments" by virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro who busted out his rendition of the aforementioned Queen classic in a recent performance—sounds like Hawaii.

Lawmakers here are considering a bill that would dub the ukulele the official state instrument, a designation that seems in some ways like a formal ceremony for a common-law marriage.

"Denying this bill would be like denying a significant part of who we are," Ani Martirosian Menon, a Honolulu resident by way of Los Angeles, told a House committee hearing Wednesday.

She credited the instrument with helping her, and anyone else who has ever come to Hawaii, to understand the islands.

"It's a sincere melting pot," she said. "If you've never been here before, you're not going to know how to adjust. The ukulele is a really good entry point to connect with the local culture."

Bette Midler belting out "Ukulele Lady" on national television, backed by a ukulele choir, helped bring the instrument's sound to the masses. But the ukulele can seem ubiquitous on the islands themselves. Visitors hear ukuleles at Hawaiian airports. Callers to state government offices hear it paired with a soothing steel guitar as hold music—perhaps aimed at calming irate constituents.

A few states have designated state instruments, but none is so synonymous as the ukulele to Hawaii. Texas called dibs on the guitar. Louisiana put zydeco ahead of jazz in honoring the accordion. Missouri claimed to the fiddle. But so did Arkansas. And Oklahoma. And South Dakota.

The ukulele and Hawaii are a more distinct pairing. They're so intertwined that when Jim Tran-

quada, co-author with Jim King of "The Ukulele: A History," was told of the bill, his response was surprise—not that Hawaii was so honoring the ukulele, but that the state hadn't already.

"The ukulele has been widely regarded as an indigenous Hawaiian instrument since the late 1880s," Tranquada said. "As a visual icon the ukulele is instantly associated with Hawaii, which is why it's used so frequently in advertising."

Here, according to Tranquada, is how that came to be.

Guitar-like stringed instruments were already popular in Hawaii about 130 years ago when plantation owners imported workers from Portugal. The Portuguese (Tranquada's great-great grandfather among them) brought a little four-stringed instrument called a machete. When they started making similar instruments out of an indigenous acacia tree called the koa, it became a distinctly Hawaiian creation.

Pretty soon the Hawaiian royal family became fans of ukulele music. Princess Kai-

ulani took it up. And as Hawaii grappled with American annexation, it became a point of pride to strum this plucky little instrument made of wood found only in Hawaii.

"If you were playing a ukulele made of koa, you were demonstrating aloha aina, or love of the land," Tranquada said. "It was a patriotic act."

Today the oldest continuous maker of ukuleles is Kamaka Ukulele, which has been in business since 1916. In a shed behind its Honolulu manufac-

turing shop sits a heap of koa logs, which spend years drying before Chris Kamaka, a third-generation ukulele maker, brings them inside to shape.

"It's a beautiful wood, and it's a hard wood," he said Wednesday, standing in the sawdust-scented work floor. They could heat it to speed up the drying process, but they'd rather let the wood wait. It takes about a year per inch of thickness to dry. "We've always done it that way," Kamaka said. "It seems to work well."



MARK RABAGO

Coffee & Jazz, located on the second floor of the ABC Building, is offering a cost-effective way of celebrating the day of heart tonight.

'Lover's Delight Dinner' at Coffee & Jazz

Looking for an elegant way to celebrate Valentine's Day without breaking the bank? Head on down to Coffee & Jazz atop the ABC Building in Garapan this evening.

The music bar and café's "Lover's Delight Dinner" package costs only \$50 per couple yet offers more bang for the buck than other Valentine's Day promotions out there.

It includes Caesar salad and butter squash for appetizer and soup, while the main

course is a choice of fish, filet mignon, or roasted duck.

For dessert, their expert chefs will be serving fruit salad with chocolate ganache. It is also throwing in a complimentary bottle of champagne for couples to celebrate their love on the day of hearts.

Coffee & Jazz operations manager Kayoko "Kay" Iri-naka said it was a no-brainer for the establishment to of-

fer "Lover's Delight Dinner."

"Our new menu concept's really working well with the new chef team and we wanted to have more guests experience foods menu at our café. Also Coffee & Jazz is an ideal

place to have a romantic date. We've been receiving positive feedback from many guests and that's why we came up with the idea of a Valentine's Day dinner special," she said.

What also sets Coffee & Jazz apart from other venues today is its ambiance—the perfect place to hang out with a romantic date.

"Lover's Delight Dinner" can accommodate up to 20 couples and dinner starts at 5:30pm and 9:30pm is the last order. Guests can still enjoy their drinks until closing at 11pm.

For more information or for reservations, call Coffee & Jazz at 233-7722. **(Saipan Tribune)**



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

ADDENDUM NO. 1

RFP-GOV14-037 – Video Lottery Gaming Site and Associated Services

RFP-GOV14-038 – Supply of Video Lottery Central Control System and Associated Services

RFP-GOV14-030 – Supply of Video Lottery Terminals and Associated Services

The previously advertised notice, Request For Proposals ("RFP") for the "Video Lottery Gaming Site", "Supply of Video Lottery Central Control System", & "Supply of Video Lottery Terminals" has been amended. The specific amendment is to extend proposal submission from January 31, 2014, 4:30 p.m., to April 01, 2014 4:30 p.m. (ChST) or Sixty (60) Calendar days.

All other elements of the RFP remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Capital Improvement Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. James R. Stump, Contracting Officer at (670)664-2375 or by fax at (670)664-2408.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB 14-MOR-009 (FOB ROTA)

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2014
TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PARTS, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ MELCHOR A. MENDIOLA
MAYOR OF ROTA**

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S**

**FIESTA
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SAIPAN
A Tan Holdings Company**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Housekeeping Cleaner
Responsible for cleaning and tidying in the hotel bedrooms. Do domestic required including changing and replenishing the bathroom. Check the general condition of the room and notify the housekeeping supervisor of any malfunction or damage. Responsible for the linen and equipment supplied for his/her use ensuring that brand standard and procedures are applied. Clean hallways, lobbies, lounge, restrooms, corridors, elevators and stairways as assigned. Clean rugs, carpets, upholstered furniture and draperies using vacuum cleaner and shampooers. Dust and polish furniture and equipment.
Qualification Requirement: High School graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year prior cleaning experience in a large building such as hotel or hospital is highly preferred. Must be able to lift and carry up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Attention to detail working carefully within the minimum time is essential. Must have good stamina and can stand on feet throughout work duty. Can work a flexible schedule including back-to-back, weekends, nights and holidays.

(2) Laundry Worker
Responsible for keeping linens in pristine condition such as towels, wash cloths and sheets. Also responsible for laundry and dry cleaning services to hotel guests.
Qualification Requirement: High School graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year work experience as a laundry worker is preferred. Must be able to lift and push up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Must be able to stand on feet for long periods of time. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays.

(2) Waiter/Waitress
Take orders from customers and in-house guests at Resort's restaurant outlets. Serve food and beverage to patrons at tables. Check with customers to ensure that they are enjoying their meals and take appropriate action to correct any problems. Clear tables or counters after patrons have finished dining.
Qualification Requirement: High School graduate or equivalent. 3 to 6 months work experience as wait staff is preferred. Must have strong customer service skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including week-ends, nights and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained from Fiesta Resort & Spa's security office located in the South Wing. Please submit your applications to our security office by the dead-line February 14, 2014 to be considered.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

**OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2014
CLOSING DATE: MARCH 7, 2014 TIME: 4:30 PM**

**SALARY RANGE IS GRADE LEVEL 33, STEP 01
AT \$26,131.390 TO STEP 05 AT \$31,757.680**

"ROTA FIELD OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE"

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

**/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director**

Business

Budget deficit at \$10.4B in Jan.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. government’s deficit through the first four months of this budget year is down 36.6 percent from a year ago, signaling further improvement in the nation’s finances.

In its monthly budget report, the Treasury Department said Wednesday that the deficit for January was \$10.4 billion.

For the period from October through January, it totaled \$184 billion. That is down \$106.4 billion from the same period a year ago and puts the country on track for a further improvement in the budget deficit.

The Congressional Budget Office is projecting that the deficit for the current budget year will decline to \$514 billion. That would be the smallest imbalance in six years. The deficit last year was \$680.2 billion.

Rising tax revenues from an improving economy and government spending constraints are helping to trim the shortfall.

The CBO’s deficit projection for this year would represent a drop of 24 percent over the 2013 deficit and would be the smallest gap since a \$458.6 billion deficit in 2008.

The deficit hit an all-time high of \$1.4 trillion in 2009 and remained above \$1 trillion for four straight years as a deep recession and weak recovery pinched government revenues and forced higher spending for

such programs as food stamps and unemployment benefits.

The CBO’s latest forecast issued earlier this month projected that the deficit will decline to \$478 billion in 2015 before starting to rise again in 2016 and keep heading higher for the rest of the decade.

CBO projected the deficit would once again top \$1 trillion in 2022 and remain above that level over the rest of its 10-year forecasting window. The rising deficits during this period will stem from big increases in spending on government benefit programs such as Social Security and Medicare, reflecting the retirement of baby boomers.

Through the first four months of this budget year, which began Oct. 1, government revenues totaled \$960.6 billion, an increase of 8.2 percent from the same period a year ago. Government spending totals \$1.14 trillion, down 2.8 percent from a year ago, reflecting in part across-the-board spending reductions imposed as part of the 2011 deficit agreement.

A \$40 billion quarterly payment from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac helped boost December to a \$53.2 billion surplus. The next quarterly payment will come in March. An improving housing market is allowing the companies to repay their taxpayer assistance after being rescued by the govern-

ment in September 2008. The companies make those payments at the end of each quarter.

Congress reached agreement in December on a budget deal aimed at bringing some stability to the budget process for the next two years. A battle over the budget resulted in a 16-day partial government shutdown in October.

And Wednesday, the Senate followed the lead of the House and passed legislation to suspend the debt ceiling until March 16 of next year. This measure will eliminate another potential flashpoint in the budget wars.

The votes came after Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew began taking extraordinary measures to avoid breaching the current \$17.2 trillion debt limit. Lew had warned that Congress would only have until the end of this month to approve a new debt ceiling and avert a market-rattling default on the debt.

Many House Republicans wanted to use the need to increase the debt ceiling to extract budget concessions from the Obama administration. However, they backed away from that battle Tuesday after GOP lawmakers were unable to agree on what concession to demand from Democrats. The White House had insisted that President Barack Obama would not negotiate over the debt limit.

Obama raises minimum wage for contract workers

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama increased the minimum wage for a few hundred thousand federal contractors on Wednesday, then pressed the divided Congress to pass broader legislation that would apply to all workers. Obama declared, “It’s the right thing to do.”

Obama first announced the executive order to boost some contractor wages during his State of the Union address last month. He signed the measure Wednesday in a White House ceremony where he was flanked by Americans who would make more money if lawmakers take more sweeping action.

White House officials concede that the executive order, which raises the hourly wage from \$7.25

to \$10.10, only applies to a small percentage of the more than 2 million federal contractors. But officials are hoping it generates momentum for Obama’s proposal on Capitol Hill, particularly as both parties try to focus on issues like income inequality and economic mobility.

“Raising the minimum wage is good for business, it’s good for workers and it’s good for the economy,” Obama said.

The president first called on Congress to increase the minimum wage last year, but the effort languished on Capitol Hill. White House officials say they’re working with lawmakers on a legislative strategy to tackle the issue this year, but it’s unclear when a bill might be voted on or whether it would pass.

The executive order for federal contractors goes into effect next year but only applies to new contracts.

The White House said the order requires that employees who work for tips make at least \$10.10 overall. It also prevents contract workers from being paid less than others if they have disabilities affecting their productivity.

A recent survey by the National Employment Law Project found that 77 percent of government contract employees who work in food service, retail or janitorial service earn less than \$10 per hour. About 4 in 10 of those workers depend on public assistance programs such as food stamps and Medicaid, the study by the worker advocacy group found.

Microsoft hoping users will abandon XP

Microsoft plans to end support for Windows XP on April 8, but there are still many users whose computers run the outdated software. That’s why the company has asked tech-savvy users to encourage their friends to upgrade their computers or buy new ones.

In a recent blog post, the Redmond, Wash., company said readers of its Windows blog are likely running a more modern version of the operat-

ing system, but their friends and family may not be.

“We need your help spreading the word to ensure people are safe and secure on modern up-to-date PCs,” Microsoft said in its blog.

Microsoft will no longer run tech support for users of the 12-year-old Windows XP software or issue updates that protect the operating system from viruses after April 8. The problem is many users still run

Windows XP and either don’t want to upgrade their machines or don’t know that they need to.

In the post, Microsoft said tech-savvy users should encourage their friends to check and see if their computers are capable of upgrading to Windows 8.1, the latest version of the computer software. Users can run the Windows Upgrade Assistant to see if their machine can upgrade to Windows 8.1, the company said. (Los Angeles Times)

Nation

Email for help leads to 3 arrests in Ohio child abuse investigation

CINCINNATI (AP)—A girl beaten and tied to her bed, sometimes for weeks at a time, won freedom for herself and her siblings by emailing a teacher at her online school to plead for help, officials said Wednesday.

The email late last month led the teacher to call 911 and after an investigation involving police and children’s services authorities led to the arrests of the girl’s mother, grandmother and stepfather, police said.

The children all were beaten and tied to their beds, and the 44-year-old man arrested in the case also is charged with repeatedly raping his stepdaughters, ages 9 and 11, and abusing their 8-year-old brother, police said.

The girl and her siblings now are in foster care, attend a bricks-and-mortar public

school and seem to be doing well, said Scioto County Sheriff’s Office Capt. David Hall, who didn’t know which of the two girls sent the email.

“I’m sure like most kids she trusted in her teacher that she would get her help,” Hall said. “We don’t know if the opportunity was there that maybe no adults were around. Or maybe she just had enough.”

He called the case “a horrific situation for the children in this house.”

The girl sent the email to her teacher at the Toledo-based Ohio Virtual Academy on Jan. 30, Hall said. She asked the teacher to call 911 because she and her siblings were being “tied to the beds and beat,” authorities said.

The children later told deputies that they were restrained

with ropes and chains for weeks at a time, sometimes longer, and only occasionally were untied to do schoolwork. They also described being forced to take their clothes off to be beaten with belts and paddles, and they had marks and scars to match their stories, Hall said.

Though the children said they were only sometimes allowed to eat and were “very hungry,” they didn’t appear overly malnourished, he said.

A school administrator said she was proud of the teacher and all the staff at the online school.

“We care deeply about the welfare and needs of all our students,” senior head of school Kristin Stewart said in a statement. “Our teachers are extraordinarily dedicated, highly trained, and have special relationships with their students.”

Survey: ‘Washington’ still a dirty word

By DAVID LIGHTMAN
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama and Congress get dismal approval ratings from the American public, as most people see little hope Washington can improve the economy or their lives, a new McClatchy-Marist Poll finds.

Obama’s approval rating remains stuck at 42 percent, with 52 percent disapproving. The latest approval figure is down from 43 percent in December. His low point came in September 2011 at 39 percent.

The mild economic rebound has barely helped Obama. Fifty-four percent disliked his handling of the economy. Forty-one percent approved, up from 40 percent in December and 37 percent in July.

The president got similar low marks this month on foreign policy—half disapproved, 43 percent approved. The approval number was down from December’s 46 percent.

Overall, voters were nearly split on their overall impression of Obama, with half seeing him unfavorably and 47

Voters’ views on Washington

President Barack Obama and Congress continue to get negative job approval ratings, according to a new McClatchy-Marist poll.

Obama

• Job he is doing

Approve

44%

Disapprove

52

• How he’s handling economy

Approve

41

Disapprove

54

• Handling foreign policy

Approve

43

Disapprove

50

The country

• Things are going

In right direction

31

On wrong track

66

Congress

• Job Republicans are doing

Approve

22

Disapprove

72

• Job Democrats are doing

Approve

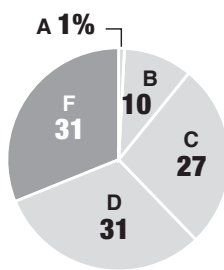
33

Disapprove

60

Grading elected officials

• Letter grade you’d give elected officials in Washington, D.C.



Source: McClatchy-Marist poll of 970 registered voters, Feb. 4-9, 2014; margin of error: +/-3.1 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible

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percent favorably.

Congress fared worse. Seventy-two percent registered disapproval of the job congressional

Republicans were doing, while 22 percent were pleased. Sixty percent disapproved of congressional Democrats’ performance.

Ancient baby DNA suggests tie to Native Americans

NEW YORK (AP)—The DNA of a baby boy who was buried in Montana 12,600 years ago has been recovered, and it provides new indications of the ancient roots of today’s American Indians and other native peoples of the Americas.

It’s the oldest genome ever recovered from the New World. Artifacts found with the body show the boy was part of the Clovis culture, which existed in North America from

about 13,000 years ago to about 12,600 years ago and is named for an archaeological site near Clovis, N.M.

The boy’s genome showed his people were direct ancestors of many of today’s native peoples in the Americas, researchers said. He was more closely related to those in Central and South America than to those in Canada. The reason for that difference isn’t clear, scientists said.

The researchers said they had no Native American DNA from the United States available for comparison, but that they assume the results would be same, with some Native Americans being direct descendants and others also closely related.

The DNA also indicates the boy’s ancestors came from Asia, supporting the standard idea of ancient migration to the Americas by way of a land bridge that disappeared long ago.

Asia

US: Dangerous Afghans will be released within 24 hours

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan government plans within 24 hours to start releasing from a former American detention facility a group of 65 inmates that the U.S. considers highly dangerous, the NATO-led coalition said late Wednesday.

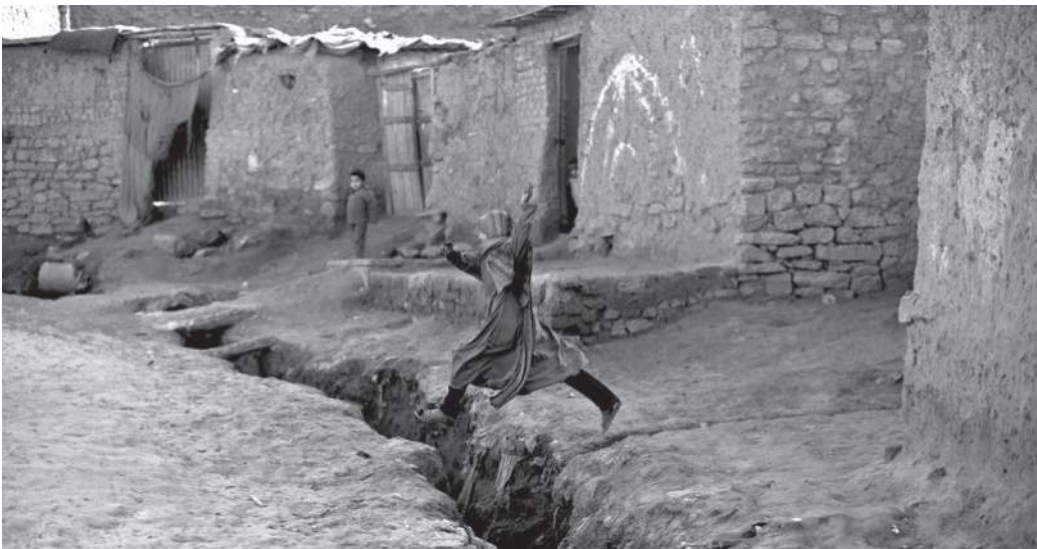
U.S. forces in Afghanistan have repeatedly registered strong concerns about releasing the detainees, who it says have the blood of inter-

national and Afghan soldiers on their hands—plus strong evidence against them, from DNA linking them to roadside bombs to explosive residue on their clothing.

When President Hamid Karzai ordered their release several weeks ago from the Parwan Detention Facility, it prompted angry denunciations from the U.S. and strained relations between the two countries ahead of the

year-end withdrawal of most international combat troops.

The international coalition on Wednesday issued the latest in a string of statements condemning the release, which it said would begin early Thursday morning and include detainees directly linked to attacks that have killed or wounded 32 U.S. or coalition personnel and 23 Afghan security personnel or civilians.



WHOOPSY-DAISY!

A Pakistani girl, whose family was displaced from Pakistan's tribal areas due to fighting between the Taliban and the army, jumps over a ditch used as a sewage drain, in a neighborhood on the outskirts of Islamabad, Pakistan, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014.

Bomb attack kills 11 police in southern Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A bomb attack killed at least 11 police officers and wounded 42 others in Pakistan's southern city of Karachi on Thursday, police said.

A van exploded after hitting a bus the officers boarded moments after it had left a training school in what appeared to be a suicide attack, said police officer Rao Anwaar.

Nearly 50 officers on board the bus came from a special commando force, he said.

Pakistani TV channels

showed the blast scene littered with broken glass and pieces of vehicles scattered around.

The wounded officers were rushed to hospitals, and 12 of them were in critical condition, said Dr. Seemi Jamali at the city's Jinnah Hospital.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack in Pakistan's business hub. The port city of Karachi has long been a center of ethnic, political, militant and sectarian violence.

The assault is latest in a series of attacks at a time when

Pakistani government is trying to strike a peace deal with local Taliban militants fighting in the country's northwest to end the violence that has killed thousands of security forces personnel, government officials, political workers and civilians in recent years.

Militants killed nine members of an anti-Taliban militia on Wednesday in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar, a day after assailants threw hand grenades inside a cinema, killing 13 in the city.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police raid 18,000 venues in China's sex capital

BEIJING (AP)—Police say they have raided more than 18,000 entertainment venues in a southern province in the wake of a high-profile state media expose of China's sex trade in the region. Guangdong police said in a statement Thursday that they had arrested 920 people allegedly engaged in prostitution. The 18,372 premises raided included including singing and dancing venues, saunas and massage parlors. CCTV's report on China's "sex capital" was criticized by many members of the public, who expressed sympathy for the sex workers and suggested Dongguan's entrenched sex industry couldn't have survived without the support of police and local authorities.

China announces \$1.6 billion air pollution fund

BEIJING (AP)—China's Cabinet has announced that 10 billion yuan (\$1.6 billion) has been set aside this year to reward cities and regions that make significant progress in controlling air pollu-

tion, highlighting how the issue has become a priority for the leadership. The fund will be set up to reward rather than offer subsidies for the prevention and control of air pollution in the key areas, according to a statement released after a Wednesday meeting of the State Council led by Premier Ki Keqiang. It said controlling pollutants such as particulate matter in the air should be a key task.

Mortar shell explosion kills 5 Bangladesh soldiers

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A mortar shell exploded accidentally Wednesday during firing practice at a military training base in Bangladesh, killing five military and border guard personnel and injuring 14 others, officials said. The army's public relations wing said the accident occurred at Ghatail in Tangail district. It said 11 of the injured were flown by helicopter to a military hospital in Dhaka for treatment. Of the dead, two were from the military and three were members of Border Guards Bangladesh, the country's border agency.

World

Storm with 106-mph gusts hits Britain

LONDON (AP)—Britain's weather service says it sees the tentacles of climate change in a spate of storms and floods battering the country, but has stopped short of saying that global warming directly caused the extreme conditions.

The latest round of bad weather slammed into Britain's west coast on Wednesday with torrential rain and winds gusting up to 106 mph (170 kph). Trucks were toppled, trees were felled and a major chunk of the railway was closed.

The website of rail operator Virgin Trains greeted visitors with the words: "Do Not Travel."

England, which has been lashed by wind and rain since December, had its wettest January since records began in 1766.

The resulting floods have drenched the southwestern coast of England, the low-lying Somerset Levels and the Thames Valley west of London, where hundreds of properties have been swamped after the Thames burst its banks.

Britain's Met Office, the na-



Waves break over Porthcawl harbour, south Wales, as the region continues to be battered by high winds and heavy rain.

tion's weather agency, said in a paper published this week that "there is no definitive answer" on the role played by climate change in the recent weather and floods. But it said there is "an increasing body of evidence that extreme daily rainfall rates are becoming more intense," probably due to a

warming world.

Met Office chief scientist Julia Slingo told the BBC that "all the evidence suggests there is a link to climate change."

It was the latest in a series of assertions by weather agencies linking extreme weather events with human-made global warming.

Syrian planes pound rebel town near Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian warplanes pounded a rebel-held town near the Lebanese border on Wednesday, activists said, as opposition leaders in Geneva called on Russia to put pressure on the government to prevent the faltering peace negotiations from collapsing.

A second round of talks that started in Geneva Monday is mired in acrimony as government and opposition delegates hurl accusations back and forth, unable to agree on a common agenda.

During a meeting with U.N. mediator Lakhdar Brahimi Wednesday, the opposition delegation submitted a paper containing their vision for a political transition. The pro-

positional calls for the expulsion of all foreign fighters from Syria and a U.N. monitored ceasefire in Syria—but the Syrian deputy foreign minister dismissed it as a "show" and refused to discuss it.

The U.N. said that a meeting between senior U.S. and Russian officials—who are backing the process—with Brahimi will be held in Geneva Thursday, a day before it was originally planned.

The talks have been accompanied by a sharp rise in violence on the ground in Syria. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 4,959 people have died in Syria in the three-week period since Jan. 22, when the first round of

talks began in Switzerland.

The group, which documents the fighting on the ground through a wide network of activists, says the period has seen the highest death toll since the uprising against President Bashar Assad started in March 2011. In a statement, it called for suspending the talks in Geneva if they don't produce an immediate cessation of all military operations.

Troops on Wednesday pounded Yabroud—the last rebel stronghold in Syria's mountainous Qalamoun region. Backed by Lebanon's Hezbollah fighters, the Syrian army has been on a crushing offensive there since early December.

Salvadoran castaway healthy but mentally fragile

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—A fisherman who says he drifted at sea for

him, even though sailors on at least one even waved at him.

"They passed close by, he asked them for help and they didn't want to provide it," said El Salvador's minister of public health, Maria Isabel Rodriguez. "There was one that almost destroyed his little boat because it came so close, but nobody helped him."

Although he was close to despair, "his desire to live was greater, he thought of his family and said that he wanted to live," Rodriguez said.

All of the doctors who have



Alvarenga

seen Alvarenga expressed concern about his mental state, saying he appeared shaken and he asked to be given as much privacy as possible amid an international media furor over his apparent ordeal.

"I want to be alone with my family. They should give me time to talk after I have recovered, because right now I'm in no shape to explain anything," Alvarenga said from his hospital bed in a video shown to the press by the ministry of public health. "That's what I'm asking them, that they leave me in peace, so I can recover, that they don't bother my family, so I can be well. Nothing more than that."

Off the Wall

Sinkhole swallows cars at Corvette Museum in Ky.

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP)—It was a sight to make a classic car lover weep: A gaping sinkhole opened beneath the National Corvette Museum in Kentucky and swallowed eight prized cars like they were toys, piling them in a heap amid loose dirt and concrete fragments.

It happened early Wednesday morning while the attraction dedicated to the classic American sports car was closed to visitors.

"They're all just kind of nose down in the bottom of the hole," said Western Kentucky University engineering professor Matt Dettman, part of a team brought in to assess the damage and stability of the surrounding area.

Six of the cars were owned by the museum and two—a 1993 ZR-1 Spyder and a 2009 ZR1 Blue Devil—were on loan from General Motors, said museum spokeswoman Katie Frassinelli.

The other cars damaged were a 1962 black Corvette, a 1984 PPG Pace Car, a 1992 White 1 Millionth Corvette, a 1993 Ruby Red 40th Anniversary Corvette, a 2001 Mallett Hammer Z06 Corvette and a 2009 white 1.5 Millionth Corvette.

"All of these have a unique story behind them," said museum executive director Wendell Strode. "They're special."

An Indiana man donated

the 1962 Corvette before his death. He babied it so much he wouldn't drive it in the rain.

"It was just a very immaculate car," Strode said.

The museum has insurance coverage for the damage to the cars and the structure, he said.

The hole opened up at about 5:40 a.m. CST Wednesday, setting off an alarm and a call to the fire department, said Bowling Green city spokeswoman Kim Lancaster.

No injuries were reported. Frassinelli said no one was in the museum at the time.

The museum attracts about 150,000 visitors each year. It's located near the factory where the iconic Corvettes are made.

The hole opened beneath part of the museum's domed section, an original part of the facility that was completed in 1994. The area will remain closed. The fire department estimated the hole is about 40 feet across and 25 to 30 feet deep. The rest of the museum will operate normal hours Thursday, officials said.

The museum said a structural engineering firm determined the perimeter of the domed area is stable.

Pictures of the sinkhole showed a collapsed section of floor with multiple cars visible inside the hole.



In this image provided by the National Corvette Museum shows several cars that collapsed into a sinkhole Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014, in Bowling Green, Ky.

2 Tampa Bay women get lost wedding dresses back

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Two Tampa Bay area women are now back in possession of their own wedding dresses nine years after a mix-up got them switched.

The Tampa Bay Times reported Wednesday that Marie Keeney was planning a ceremony to renew her vows with her husband of nine years. Her 8-year-old son, Braden, had asked them to do it so he could be part of the ceremony.

But the planning came to a

halt last year when she took the wedding dress out of the storage box and realized it wasn't hers. She was devastated and canceled the ceremony.

"It made me cry," she said. "And I never cry." But Keeney, 45, began investigating.

She contacted the dry cleaners that did the preservation and was told the task had been outsourced to a New York company, Wedding Gown Preservation.

She felt her dress was lost but wanted to get the dress she had back to its proper owner. She posted photos on Facebook and contacted the media, in hopes that the owner would learn about the dress. But no one came forward.

Then Wedding Gown Preservation found Keeney's dress and shipped it back to the dry cleaners.

"I think it's a miracle," Keeney said.

ney said. "I can't believe I got my dress back."

An invoice that was also found showed that the other dress belonged to a Katherine Stephenson. The Times tracked down Stephenson living three miles from Keeney. Stephenson had long accepted that her dress had been lost. She picked it up last week.

"Several people at that wedding are not with us anymore," Stephenson said of the 2001 ceremony. "It will be really nice to have something special from a time when they were all in our lives."

Meanwhile, Keeney has rescheduled her renewal ceremony for her 10th anniversary in November. And the dress still fits.

"They say it's bad luck to wear your dress twice," Keeney said, smiling. "But I don't believe any of that."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Ohio mom who loathed name can change it to Sexy

NEWARK, Ohio (AP)—A central Ohio woman who loathed being named Sheila and wanted a moniker that reflected her personality has legally changed her first name to Sexy. A judge approved the request Tuesday from the 41-year-old Pataskala (puh-TAS'-kuh-luh) woman, formerly named Sheila Ranea Crabtree. In her application, Crabtree called her given name "the ugliest one out there." She says that if the court didn't allow the switch to Sexy, she'd try to become known legally by her middle name, which she has used for years. The Columbus Dispatch reports that Crabtree told a judge that her husband and teenage daughters approve of the change. When the judge asked why she chose Sexy, Crabtree said she's fun and free-spirited and thought the change would make her complete.

Glitch leads to penny gas at N. Illinois station

WOODSTOCK, Ill. (AP)—An error at northern Illinois gas station caused pumps to sell fuel for a penny a gallon. The (Crystal Lake) Northwest Herald reports a Shell station in Woodstock wound up mistakenly selling the nearly-free fuel for about two hours Sunday night. As word spread, cars lined up and jostled to fill-up. Woodstock Police Sgt. Dennis Leard says authorities had to use an emergency shut-off to stop the sales before the gas station closed in order to reset the pumps to regular prices. But before that, cars were blocking traffic and lining up on the street to reach the cheap gas. Leard says the station clerk working at the time wasn't aware of the glitch. It wasn't clear how much gas was sold.

Heart-warming messages to patients etched in snow

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Huge messages left in the snow on the frozen Mississippi River are giving patients at St. Cloud Hospital a lift. At ground level, the patted-down snow doesn't look like much. But from the hospital windows above, the messages are quite clear. The latest are the words "love" and "believe," along with a peace symbol. Each time there's fresh snow, there's a new message. Nurse Mary Habiger has seen a man and woman in snow shoes stamping out the messages. She says the mystery man and woman seem well organized and plan their messages in advance. Habiger tells WCCO-TV there are lots of family lounges in the hospital that face the river. So even if a patient's room doesn't overlook the river, they can view the messages from there.

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

†**Patricia
Taitano
Cabrera
Reyes**

Lovingly known as "Patsy"



We, the family would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 1st year death anniversary of the passage of our beloved unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be celebrated at San Vicente Church beginning on Saturday, February 15, 2014 at 6:00PM. Nightly Rosary will be said at 8:00PM at the family residence in Dandan.

On the final day, Sunday, February 23, 2014. Mass will be at 6:00PM at San Vicente Church followed by the Holy Rosary. Dinner will be served at the family residence in Dandan.

Your prayers, thoughts, and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Oloomway

Antonio "Toi" A. Reyes, Children and Families

In Celebration of Her New Life

†**Myrna Aureo Mesa**

May 30, 1953 – February 09, 2014

In Her New Life She Now Joins Her:

Father: Patricio Aureo
Mother: Catalina Aureo
Former Husband: Armando Alampayan
Son: Arman Alampayan
Brothers: Eddie and Alberto Aureo
Sister: Melba Franco
Father In-Law: Joaquin Pinola Mesa

Her Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of Her:

Husband: Luis Mangloña Mesa
Daughter: Haydee A. & Richard S. Reyes (Maria Carmen, Cristian Josh, Charmylle Reyes, Kyle Cristine, Christopher Jacob Alampayan)
Mother In-Law: Florincia M. Reyes
Sisters and Brothers: Teresita & Ricardo Dela Cruz (Ritchel, Richard, Ricardo Jr. & Rica), Concepcion & Antonio Reyes (Kathlyn Joyce), Linel & Edna Aureo (Niel John), Retalia De Asis & Family, Lourdes Macalso and Family, Sweeta Galvin and Family
Uncle: Narciso & Perigrina Macahito
Cousins: Elizabeth & Sancho Escaber, Juvy & Sandie Pablo, Emerita & Jesus Sablan, Garyn & Myrna Macahito.

She will also be missed by numerous friends and family.

Nightly Mass is being offered at 6:00PM at the San Vicente Church followed by the Holy Rosary.

On Monday, February 17, 2014, Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at the San Vicente Church 8:00AM followed immediately by Interment Service at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You, Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Maramig Salamat

The Family



Science & Technology

In China, Apple will engrave iPads—if it isn't too political

By JULIE MAKINEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEIJING—Want to engrave a few words in Chinese on your new iPad? No problem—Apple offers consumers in mainland China free personalization. Just don't get too political.

Say you type in the Dalai Lama's name in Chinese characters into Apple's online store engraving service. You'll receive a yellow pop-up box saying, "The engraved text is not suitable." Other phrases that return the same error notice include "Tibet independence," "Xinjiang independence" and "Taiwan

independence." ("America independence" is permitted.)

And if you happen to share your name with Liu Xiaobo, the jailed 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner, you're also out of luck if you want those three characters etched into your device.

Apple has long rejected a number of vulgarities on its U.S. engraving service. Asked about forbidden language in mainland China, Apple Inc. spokeswoman Carolyn Wu said, "We comply with local laws and requirements around the world."

Apple is hardly the only U.S. tech company that's had to contend with censorship issues in

mainland China. In the past, Yahoo Inc., Microsoft Corp., Google Inc. and Cisco Systems Inc. have all endured controversies related to doing business in China amid the country's curbs on speech.

Yet the rejected messages illustrate how China's censorship efforts extend deep into the mundane nooks and crannies of everyday life and commerce.

Exactly what words are out of bounds for engraving by Apple remains unclear. But some experimenting on Apple's China website showed that many rejected words closely match those that are typically blocked online by the Chinese government.

Nokia touts video recording in new Lumia phone

NEW YORK (AP)—Nokia is selling a new Windows phone that promises enhanced video-recording capabilities.

The new Lumia Icon sports four microphones, compared with the one or two typically found in smartphones. The two on the front are activated when making phone calls, while the two on the rear are used when taking video—to better capture sound coming from the subjects.

The Icon takes video in 1080p high-definition resolution as well as still images of up to 19

megapixels. The resolution for still images isn't as sharp as the 38-megapixel maximum on Nokia's flagship Lumia 1020, but that allows the Icon camera to be flatter, without a protruding lens.

Nokia is one of the main companies making phones based on Microsoft's Windows Phone 8 system. The system is growing in use, but it lags iPhones and Android devices in market share. Many apps come to iPhones and Android devices first.

Microsoft Corp. is trying to boost its Windows Phone system

as sales of traditional personal computers decline. Microsoft is buying Nokia's phone business and patent rights for \$7.3 billion in a deal expected to be completed by the end of March.

The Lumia Icon will be available starting Feb. 20 through Verizon Wireless for \$200 with a two-year service contract, or \$550 without.

The Icon is similar to Nokia Corp.'s Lumia 1520, except its screen measures just 5 inches diagonally, compared with 6 inches on the 1520.

TECH Q&A

How to stop hanging out with Google

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: How do I remove Google Hangouts from my Motorola Android phone? I prefer to use the basic SMS (Short Message Service, another name for texting) that came with the phone.—Mike Hemphill, Minneapolis

ANSWER: I suggest you turn off Google Hangouts, a text, photo and video chat service that is the default program in newer versions of Google's Android operating system. Deleting Hangouts is a risky process that's better avoided.

Because you acquired Google Hangouts in an Android upgrade, I'm not sure if your original SMS application is still there. You may need to download and install a new one from Google Play.

Then, on your phone, go to "Settings," then "More," then "Default SMS app." You'll see the circle beside "Hangouts" is filled in. Click the circle next to your original or newly downloaded SMS app to make it the default. Hangouts will remain on for instant messaging.

Also go through your phone's "notifications" settings to make sure only your SMS app, and not Hangouts, will alert you to new texts.

It's possible to delete Hangouts, but you need to set up "root access" to the Android operating system. That makes you a "super user" who can delete anything, a mixed blessing because if you delete the wrong thing your phone won't work. But, if you want to try it, see <http://tinyurl.com/173kgpg> and <http://tinyurl.com/1f9kq5c>.

Q: How do I password-protect only some of the files on my Windows 8 computer? Also, how can I password-protect data on a thumb drive?—Jerry Epperson, Nipomo, Calif.

A: You can't password-protect individual files in Windows 8. But you can opt for a deeper level of file protection called encryption.

Encryption software will scramble files so that they can only be unscrambled with the same software on the same computer by the same user (assuming each user of the computer has a different login identity). You can also encrypt an entire portable thumb or flash drive.

Windows 8 will even do the encryption for you through a function called "Encrypting File System" that works in connection with Windows Explorer. For a video, see <http://tinyurl.com/p38d43k>. For a written explanation with screen shots, see <http://tinyurl.com/ottda5u>.

Q: When I try to rip an audio CD into my Windows 7 music library, I get the message, "Windows Media Player cannot rip one or more tracks from the CD." What's wrong?—Jay Bowman, Haddonfield, N.J.

A: The problem could lie within the Windows Media Player settings, or there could be file corruption in the database that stores the music. For detailed instructions on how to deal with either problem, see Microsoft's explanation at <http://tinyurl.com/mvm9b3a>.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

In Celebration of His New Life

†Jose Cabrera Tudela

September 18, 1931 — February 08, 2014

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Wife: †Margarita Sablan Cabrera Tudela

Parents: †Isidro Sablan Tudela

†Rosa Palacios Cabrera Tudela

Parents In Law: †Augustin Sablan Tudela

†Jose SanNicolas Cabrera

†Cecilia Palacios Sablan Cabrera Tudela

Son: †Aldebert C. Tudela

Grandson: †Robert Atalig Tudela

Granddaughter: †Sabra Tudela Camacho

Sister In Law: †Carmen Cabrera Tudela

Brother In Law: †Antonio Sablan Cabrera

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of His Children and Families:

Francisco C. and Cynthia A. Tudela, Children and family

Diego C. and Victoria O. Tudela, Children and family

Brian C. Tudela, Children and family

Priscilla C. Tudela, Children and family

Bernice T. and Calistro I. Reyes, Children and family

Lillian C. Tudela and Jose M. Camacho, Children and family

Alvin C. and Rose Marie T. Tudela, Children and family

James C. and Clarissa C. Tudela, Children and family

Gary C. Tudela

Brothers and Sisters and In-Laws: †Basilisa C. Tudela, †Alejandro C. / †Romana V. Tudela / Ana Y. Tudela,

†Candido C. / Consolacion A. Tudela, †Margaret T. / †Edward J. Riva, †Ismael C. Tudela, †Natalie T. /

†Charles R. Ronsheimer, †Sylvia T. / Irenio Asuncion, Teresita T. / Daniel L. Camacho, †Jesusa C.

Tudela, †Inocencia C. Tudela, †Rafael DLG. Tudela

Caregiver: Daisy Delacruz and Adelina Mandia

He is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each morning at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral

in Chalan Kanoa at 6:00am and Holy Rosary is being recited each evening at 7:00pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, February 17, 2014. Our beloved will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela

Paz Memorial Chapel - Beach Rd., Garapan to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso Service will

be at 8:00am followed by the Last Rosary at 8:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed

by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest with his wife †Margarita.

Please join us in prayers,

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You

Children and Families of the late

†Jose Cabrera Tudela and †Margarita Sablan Cabrera Tudela

Life & Style

Father of TV sketch comedy Sid Caesar dies at 91

NEW YORK (AP)—Milton Berle was the funnyman whose pioneering presence in the nation's living rooms earned him the title Mr. Television.

But Berle echoed the past. His wildly popular wisecracks and cavorting were repurposed from his burlesque days for the brand-new miracle of TV.

Sid Caesar was different. Arriving on Berle's heels in 1949, Caesar was the future of TV comedy—a future that was evergreen and, with his death on Wednesday at 91, is certain to survive him. To put it simply: Caesar invented TV sketch comedy and gave it stature as a funhouse mirror of the everyday.

"Saturday Night Live," to name the most obvious example, is a weekly homage to his creation.

To do it, Caesar gathered a dream team of fellow performers and writers—among them Carl Reiner, Mel Brooks, Neil Simon and Woody Allen—whose own impact on comedy will likewise be lasting.

"From my vantage point," said Reiner, "which was sometimes no further than an inch from his face, and one time nose on nose, he was inarguably the greatest pantomimist, monologist and single sketch comedian who ever worked in television."

"He was one of the truly great comedians of my time, and one of the finest privileges I've had in my entire career was that I was able to work for him," Allen said.

Caesar was a brawny young man with a beetle brow, rubber face and distinctive mole on his left cheek whose first comedy-variety show, "The Admiral Broadway Revue," premiered in February 1949 and was off the air by June. Its fatal shortcoming: unimagined popularity. It was selling more Admiral television sets than the company could make. Admiral, its exclusive sponsor, pulled out.

But the audience was primed for Caesar's subsequent efforts. "Your Show of Shows," which debuted in 1950, and "Caesar's Hour" three years later, drew as many as 60 million viewers weekly and earned its star \$1 million annually at a time when \$5, he recalled, "bought a steak dinner for two."

When "Caesar's Hour" left the air in 1957, Caesar was only 34. But the unforgiving cycle of weekly television had taken a toll: He relied on booze and pills for sleep every night so he could wake up and create more comedy.

It took decades for Caesar to hit bottom. Then in 1977, he went cold turkey, "which turned me into a wild turkey," he wrote in his memoir, "Where Have I Been?" With his wife, Florence (who died in 2010 after more than 60 years of marriage), by his side, recovery had begun.

After his golden days of live TV, Caesar found success in films ("It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" as well as Brooks' "Silent Movie" and "History of



In this undated file photo originally provided by NBC, Sid Caesar, left, and Imogene Coca are shown in a scene from "Your Show of Shows."

the World: Part One," and the musical "Grease"), on Broadway (Simon's "Little Me") and even scored in a nonsinging role with the Metropolitan Opera in its 1987 production of the operetta "Die Fledermaus."

On "Your Show of Shows," Caesar staged 90 minutes of skits, revues, pantomime and satire that his audience found not only hilarious, but also vividly relatable. His comedy style,

while often antic, was rooted in reality.

His humor—observational, humanistic—exposed the telling truths of everyday life. How friends fight over a restaurant check. How a schoolboy at his first dance musters the nerve to talk to a girl. How a gum ball machine behaves when fed a coin (one of Caesar's countless impersonations). Or how someone, like his double-talking

German professor, manages to pose as an expert despite expertise in nothing.

"Real life is the true comedy," he said in a 2001 interview with The Associated Press. "Then everybody knows what you're talking about." Caesar brought observational comedy to TV before the term, or such latter-day practitioners as Jerry Seinfeld, were even born.

In sketches, Caesar played an unsuspecting moviegoer getting caught between feuding lovers in a theater. He dined at a health food restaurant, where the first course was the bouquet in the vase on the table. He was interviewed as an avant-garde jazz musician who seemed happily high on something.

Some compared Caesar to Charlie Chaplin for his brilliance at blending humor with touches of pathos.

Caesar went into left field with such co-stars as Howard Morris and Nanette Fabray, but his most celebrated collaborator was the brilliant Imogene Coca on "Your Show of Shows."

Coca and Caesar performed skits that satirized marital spats, inane advertising, strangers meeting and speaking in clichés, a parody of the Western "Shane" in which the hero was named "Strange." They staged a water-logged spoof of the love scene in "From Here to Eternity." "The Hickenloopers" husband-and-wife skits became a staple.

Caesar was born in 1922 in

Yonkers, N.Y., the third son of an Austrian-born restaurant owner and his Russian-born wife. His first dream was to become a musician, and he played saxophone in bands in his teens. But as a youngster waiting tables at his father's luncheonette, he liked to observe as well as serve the diverse clientele, and he recognized the humor happening right before his eyes.

His talent for comedy was discovered when he was serving in the Coast Guard during World War II and got a part in a Coast Guard musical, "Tars and Spars." He also appeared in the movie version. Wrote famed columnist Hedda Hopper: "I hear the picture's good, with Sid Caesar a four-way threat. He writes, sings, dances and makes with the comedy."

Then he broke into TV. He was signed by NBC executive Pat Weaver, who later created "Today" and "Tonight." Weaver asked what he wanted to do: a half-hour, an hour or 90 minutes?

"Let's do the hour-and-a-half," replied Caesar, figuring more was always better. He gave little thought to the burden he had taken on: 90 minutes live for 39 weeks a season—and, unlike the present-day "Saturday Night Live," no cue cards.

"We had an hour and a half of, 'Boy, it worked!'" he later recalled. "And then, after you had a couple of drinks: 'You know, we've got to do that allllll over again (starting) on Monday.'"

Jackson outburst shows problems with 'other' faces

By **JESSE WASHINGTON**
AP NATIONAL WRITER

"They all look alike."

There may be something behind this age-old canard: Science indicates that people can have a hard time differentiating between faces of people whose race is different from their own. But for black people, being mistaken for someone else can have a special sting, which may explain why the movie star Samuel L. Jackson eviscerated a white TV reporter for mistaking him for Laurence Fishburne.

"We may be all black and famous, but we all don't look alike!" Jackson exclaimed. He proceeded to ridicule the reporter, refusing to move on despite profuse apologies.

It was a situation that's familiar to many groups in a diverse society conscious of demographic boxes.

Asian-Americans get confused with people who aren't even from their ancestral countries. Blondes get mistaken for other blondes who look nothing like them. Straight people accidentally call lesbians the name

of the other lesbian they know.

"Americans have been socialized to place people in categories," said Josie Brown-Rose, an English professor at Western New England University. "Everything from a job application to a college application requires us to self-identify into racial groups and locate ourselves with in a specific collective."

"Oftentimes when we look at individuals, it is the collective that we see first."

Scientific studies have identified the "other race effect," in which people tend to confuse or incorrectly name individuals of other races, said Thomas Busey, an Indiana University psychology professor who studies face recognition.

There are two theories for why this happens, Busey said.

One is that people focus on the wrong physical cues—hair color and texture may be a good way to distinguish white people, for example, but it doesn't work so well for Asians. The other theory is that people who have little contact with other races are more likely to think they all look the same.



This combination of 2012 and 2008 file photos shows actors Samuel L. Jackson and Laurence Fishburne.

"If we have less contact with other races, we're less likely to learn the real cues," Busey said.

He has fallen victim to the "other race effect" himself: Once, Busey was 20 minutes into a conversation with one of his black students when he realized he thought she was the only other black person in the class.

Yet Busey has made the same kind of error with a white student. Which raises questions about why Jackson reacted so strongly, and whether it was an innocent mistake when TV

reporter Sam Rubin confused Jackson with Fishburne.

The two actors share little physical resemblance except for being large African-Americans with a gap between their front teeth. Did Rubin really think Jackson, known for his hard edge and foul mouth, was Fishburne, whose persona is more Shakespearean? Would Rubin have confused Tom Cruise and Mel Gibson?

Despite Rubin's apologies on air and then online for what he himself called a "very amateur mistake," it's easy for some to

see race as the reason.

Black people must navigate white environments far more often than whites find themselves surrounded by non-whites, so it can feel like black people get misidentified more often.

Just among current black celebrities, the E! channel confused the actresses Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer; George Stephanopolous thought basketball legend Bill Russell was actor Morgan Freeman; and a picture of Seal, the slim singer with a scarred face, was displayed by a TV station when the huge, unblemished actor Michael Clarke Duncan died.

Not to mention when pop star Will.i.am was called Wyclef Jean on live TV. The reporter quickly put a hand to his earpiece and corrected himself—but with another wrong ID: the rapper Wale.

"I could understand where Sam gets mad at this," said Mark Anthony Neal, an African-American studies professor at Duke University who focuses on pop culture.

"It's a big deal because it erases your achievements. You're just another interchangeable Negro actor," Neal said.

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WINTER'S TALE [CC,DV] (NR)
Fri. (4:20 PM) 7:30 PM 10:25 PM
Sat. - Sun. (12:00 PM) 7:30 PM 10:25 PM
Mon. (12:00 PM) 4:20 PM 7:30 PM
Tue. - Thu. (4:20 PM) 7:30 PM

ROBOCOP [CC,DV] (PG-13)
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Tue. - Thu. (4:30 PM) 7:10 PM

LEGO [CC,DV] (PG)
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Tue. - Thu. 6:45 PM

LEGO 3D [CC,DV] (PG)
Fri. - Sun. (4:00 PM) 9:15 PM
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VAMPIRE ACADEMY [CC,DV] (PG-13)
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I, FRANKENSTEIN [CC,DV] (PG-13)
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Tue. - Thu. (5:05 PM)

I, FRANKENSTEIN 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)
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Tue. - Thu. 7:25 PM

RIDE ALONG [CC,DV] (PG-13)
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Mon. (1:15 PM) 4:10 PM 7:05 PM
Tue. - Thu. (4:10 PM) 7:05 PM

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET [CC,DV] (R)
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Sat. - Mon. (12:30 PM) 7:00 PM
Tue. - Thu. 7:00 PM

12 YEARS A SLAVE [CC,DV] (R)
Fri. - Sun. (4:05 PM) 10:30 PM
Mon. - Thu. (4:05 PM)

Times For 02/14 - 02/20 www.REGmovies.com

Barbie is in this year's SI Swimsuit issue

NEW YORK (AP)—After 50 years of debate over her unattainably perfect figure, Barbie now is unapologetic about her tiny waist and endless legs.

To prove it? The doll, which is made by Mattel, is flaunting her frame in Sports Illustrated Swimsuit's 50th anniversary issue that's hitting stands on Tuesday. She'll be featured alongside supermodels like Christie Brinkley and Brooklyn Decker as part of a campaign called "unapologetic."

"As a legend herself, and under constant criticism about her body and how she looks, posing ... gives Barbie ... and her fellow legends an opportunity to own who they are," Mattel said in a statement.

The campaign is a departure for the 55-year old doll, which has been both beloved as a plaything and criticized as an unrealistic standard of beauty for decades.

In fact, Barbie has faced scrutiny for everything from her chiseled facial features and

disproportionately small waist to her "life choices." And last year, an artist renewed controversy over Barbie's effect on body image after an artist posted pictures of the more meaty physique the doll would have if she had the figure of an average 19-year-old.

Mattel has tried to change Barbie with the times. The doll has gone through several reinventions, including 150 careers, from architect to lifeguard, and a brief publicity-stunt breakup with her boyfriend Ken.

But this latest move, which again sparked online debate on Wednesday about body image issues, comes as Mattel tries to revive interest in the doll icon. Barbie is worth an estimated \$1.3 billion in sales for the toymaker and she's the No. 1 toy brand.

But Barbie has lost some popularity in recent years to edgier toys like Mattel's Monster High dolls with their tattoos and neon hair. In fact, Barbie has had declining sales in five of the last six quarters, with sales falling 13 percent in the most recent quarter.

Mattel hopes the "unapologetic" campaign will boost Bar-

Lea Salonga joins Il Divo on spring US tour



This Oct. 15, 2010 file photo shows Filipino singer Lea Salonga performing on World Food Day, at the FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) headquarters in Rome.

NEW YORK (AP)—The four guys from Il Divo will get some help from a Broadway veteran as they tour this spring singing musical theater hits—Lea Salonga.

The classical music group announced Wednesday that Tony Award-winning Salonga, the original "Miss Saigon" in London and New York who also starred in a Broadway revival of "Flower Drum Song" in 2002, will join the upcoming North American tour "Il Divo—A Musical Affair: The Greatest Songs of Broadway Live."

The tour kicks off March 28 in Phoenix and ends in June, with stops in California, Washington, Canada, Utah, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, Maryland,

Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Ohio, New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

The tour is in support of Il Divo's latest album, the compilation of Broadway songs "A Musical Affair." Onstage, Salonga will help the group sing such hits as "Some Enchanted Evening" from "South Pacific," "Tonight" from "West Side Story," "Memory" from "Cats" and "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" from "The Lion King."

Il Divo, which came together in 2003, is made up of tenor Urs Buhler of Switzerland, baritone Carlos Marin of Spain, pop artist Sebastien Izambard of France and tenor David Miller from the United States.



This image provided by Sports Illustrated on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2014, shows the cover-wrap of the magazine's 50th anniversary annual swimsuit issue.

bie's image.

As part of the campaign, there will be a collector Sports Illustrated Barbie doll, an event at the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Beach House on Monday, a billboard in New York's Times Square and @Barbie tweets with the hashtag "unapologetic" on Twitter. Barbie also will appear on the cover of 1,000 issues in an advertising "cover wrap" for the New York Toy Fair, which starts Sunday.

Spending for the campaign was undisclosed.

"Unapologetic" is a word that Mattel executives use internally, said Lisa McKnight, the senior

vice president at Mattel. But she said this is the first time the company is "engaging in a conversation publicly."

Sports Illustrated Swimsuit editor MJ Day said Barbie fits in with the swimsuit issues' "message of empowerment" for women.

But Allen Adamson, a branding expert, said he's not sure a feature in Sport's Illustrated's swimsuit issue is the right strategy for the brand.

"The Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue is one step away from Playboy magazine," he said. "It is potentially sending the wrong message to girls."

Paula Deen cooks up \$75M comeback deal

SAVANNAH, Georgia (AP)—Paula Deen has found a key ingredient to bringing some sizzle back to her career—a cash infusion worth at least \$75 million from a private investment firm.

The Savannah-based celebrity cook, whose fortunes took a dive last year because of comments she made in a lawsuit, announced Wednesday she's formed a new umbrella company for her restaurants, cookbooks, product endorsements

and other media deals. The new company, Paula Deen Ventures, said private-equity firm Najafi Companies is investing \$75 million to \$100 million in Deen's comeback effort.

Jahm Najafi, CEO of the Phoenix-based investment company, says he's confident Deen's new venture will succeed in part thanks to her "loyal fan base."

In a statement, Deen also thanked fans "whose love and support have built my brands."

Lady Gaga shoots video at Hearst Castle

SAN SIMEON, California (AP)—Tourists are giving way to dancers as a production crew takes over Hearst Castle on the California coast, where Lady Gaga is shooting a big-budget music video.

The *San Luis Obispo Tribune* says filming is taking place this week at the indoor blue-and-gold tiled Roman Pool and the outdoor Neptune Pool.

The pop diva had yet to be seen as crewmembers carried in

bags full of fake flowers and a giant plaster seashell Tuesday.

Shoots at the state historical site are extremely rare. Gaga is donating \$250,000 to the Hearst Castle foundation in addition to underwriting a \$25,000 water supply study and paying special fees.

She will make a water conservation public service announcement and a short feature on the castle built by newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst.

Wife's devotion to husband stops at the church door

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: About a year ago, my husband, "Scott," started attending church. He had never gone in the few years we dated.

We discussed our feelings about religion before we became engaged. He comes from a family that attended church every Sunday and believes in God. I was raised the exact opposite; I'm an atheist. I told Scott that if we had children, I would be OK with him taking them to church, but I would not join them. It bothered him a little, but we talked it over and moved on.

After a difficult year that led to some mild depression (for which Scott sought help), he started going to church. I was happy for him because it seemed to help him.

After a few weeks he asked me to go with him. I went several times, but felt uncomfortable. I feel like a fraud sitting in the pew. Scott says he "wants my support" and that means attending with him. I suspect he's embarrassed to be there without his wife.

I do not enjoy it. I have been offended by some of the messages that were imparted, and I would prefer having a couple of hours to myself on Sundays.

Abby, what should I do? Is there any middle ground here?

FEELING COERCED IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR FEELING COERCED: Tell Scott that you are happy he has found comfort in going to church, but that you are not comfortable with what is being preached and find some of it offensive. Remind him that church attendance was not part of your agreement when you married him and that you value your solitary time at home the same way he appreciates the service.

While you might relent and go with him on major holidays—some non-believing spouses do that—there really isn't a middle ground, and because you feel so strongly about it, you should stand yours.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am the mother of two girls. One of them has a lot of emotional problems. My husband is gone for months at a time due to his job. I have told him many times that I want him to find another job that would have him home more often. He always says that there are no jobs that will pay what he's making now.

I know that we need a good-paying job, but I need my husband home and my girls need their father. With all of our daughter's issues, everything falls on my shoulders and I don't feel I can handle it alone much longer. We don't live near family, and I have found it hard to make friends due to my daughter's acting out. How do I get my husband to understand?

MARRIED SINGLE MOM

DEAR MOM: I understand how stressful it must be to have all the responsibility for raising your daughters on your shoulders. And feeling as isolated as you do only intensifies your feelings. If your husband doesn't already understand what you are going through, I doubt there is much you can say that will convince him to quit his lucrative job and help with the children.

Because he is gone so much—and making good money—consider moving yourself and your daughters closer to your family so you can have some respite when you need it. And in the meantime, find a therapist for yourself. Perhaps your daughter's doctor or your personal physician can recommend one.

■■■

DEAR READERS: Largely because of you, writing this column is a labor of love for me, and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Valentine's Day! — ABBY

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

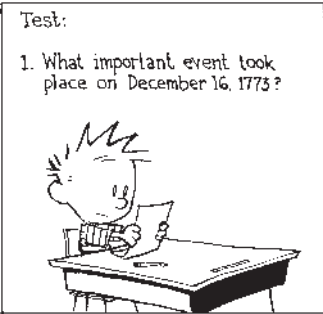
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

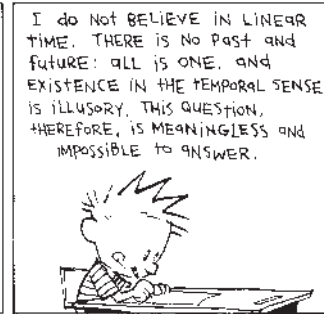
By Jim Davis

Test:

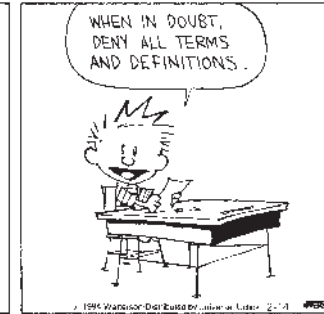
1. What important event took place on December 16, 1773?



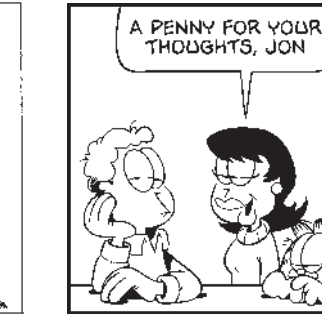
I do not BELIEVE in LINEAR TIME. THERE IS NO PAST and FUTURE: ALL IS ONE, and EXISTENCE IN THE TEMPORAL SENSE IS ILLUSORY. THIS QUESTION, THEREFORE, IS MEANINGLESS AND IMPOSSIBLE TO ANSWER.



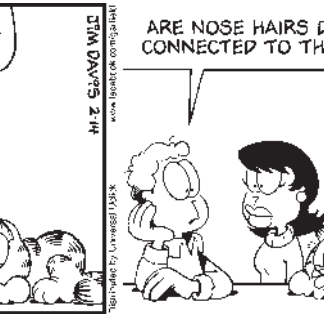
WHEN IN DOUBT, DENY ALL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS.



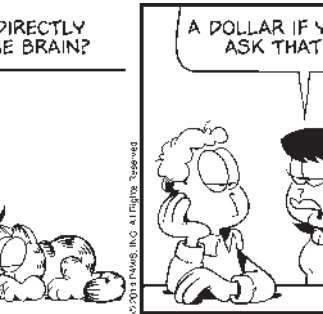
A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, JON




ARE NOSE HAIRS DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE BRAIN?



A DOLLAR IF YOU NEVER ASK THAT AGAIN



THANK YOU



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ANDRE WANTS ME TO PARTNER WITH HIM ON A CHAIN OF COFFEE SHOPS.

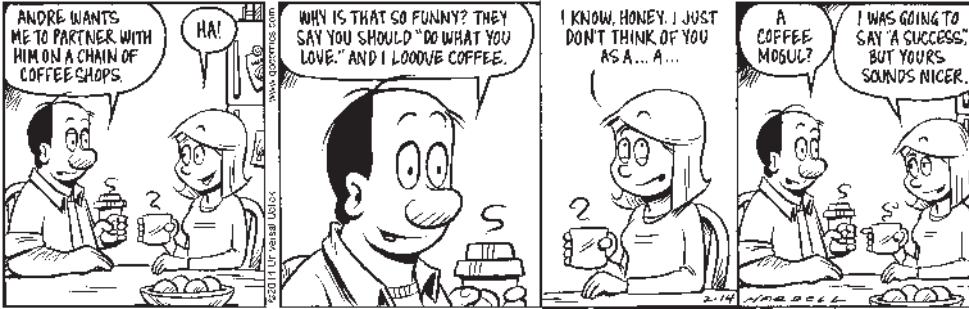
HA!

WHY IS THAT SO FUNNY? THEY SAY YOU SHOULD "DO WHAT YOU LOVE." AND I LOVE COFFEE.

I KNOW, HONEY. I JUST DON'T THINK OF YOU AS A... A...

A COFFEE MOBUS?


I WAS GOING TO SAY "A SUCCESS," BUT YOURS SOUNDS NICER.



THE RACE ON THIS SHOW "THE AMAZING RACE" IS REALLY...

UH... YOU KNOW... DANG! WHAT'S THE WORD?

NEVER MIND.



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Edge along

4 "Certainly"

7 Postpone

12 Blackjack

13 In the manner of

14 Nome dome

15 Invitation

16 Supreme

18 Quilters' gathering

19 Extra

20 Persian Gulf land

22 The lady

23 Pith helmet

27 Guitar's cousin

29 Slept soundly?

31 Check recipient

34 "Fidelio," e.g.

35 Stop container

37 Underwear with underwire

38 Pinnacle

39 "Caught ya!"

DOWN

41 Speed

45 Unaccompanied

47 Work with

48 Cougar

52 Small songbird

53 Startle

54 D.C. address

55 "Holy cow!"

56 The same

57 Historic time

58 Bobby of hockey

1 Synagogue

2 Less friendly

Solution time: 25 mins.

J	O	T	F	L	E	A	P	A	I	N
E	W	E	L	O	S	T	I	N	D	O
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E	L	S	E	R	E	A	R	Y	E	N

Yesterday's answer 2-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Bledsoe, 42; Simon Pegg, 44; Meg Tilly, 54; Florence Henderson, 80.

Happy Birthday: Don't limit what you can do. If you are lacking in skills or information, learn on the go and keep moving. Taking control will lead to greater financial security. Make changes that are conducive to simultaneously growing your assets and cutting your liabilities back. Put a halt to pending problems and free up time to be more productive. Your numbers are 1, 8, 23, 26, 28, 35, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Use your information, expertise and skills to impress, and you will bypass someone trying to outmaneuver you. Keep emotions tucked away and remain consistent and confident as you go about your business. Plan to have fun. Spend time with someone special. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take time for the people, places and things you enjoy. Show how much you care by making special plans or doing little things that you know will please someone and you will avoid senseless bickering that will weaken your personal position. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be honest. You may not want to face opposition or hurt someone's feelings, but in the end, it will make life easier. Making alterations at home or work will play in your favor. Don't limit what you can do by hiding out. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An important relationship may be strained if you aren't straightforward about the past, how you feel and what you want to do to resolve pending issues. Focus on maintain-

ing your reputation and earning the respect of someone you love. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Settle down and work toward a goal that will help you out financially. Criticism will arise if you are all talk and no action. Avoid divulging your personal secrets to someone you work with or who can influence your future. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change of plans due to an emotional situation or a debate that takes place must not confuse you. Work with whatever you are given to prove you are capable regardless of the circumstances. The end result will be improvement and recognition. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Check out new interests and people. If you join forces with other people who have similar concerns, you will make a difference. Love and intimate relationships may be confusing or questionable. Consider whether to rekindle or move on. ★★


SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Refrain from sharing personal secrets or gossip. Question the motives of anyone you are dealing with at work or with matters pertaining to your residence. Focus on making personal changes, but don't go overboard. At this time, less will be sufficient. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Chat about your accomplishments and share your ideas for the future and you will draw in the people most likely to give you a helping hand. Get involved in your community and you will find a way to offer something special at a premium. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your energy into making work-related changes or letting go of past incidents that have been standing between you and your goals. Don't get angry when the sweetest revenge is your success. Make changes that count. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your innovative way of dealing with money, legal, medical or contractual issues will take someone skeptical by surprise. Work your magic and you will get what you want in the end. A change in your financial situation looks promising. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Build a better relationship with someone from your past. Don't let finances come between you and someone you care about. Pay back debts or make amends. Once you resolve a pending problem, positive results and a new beginning will lead to success. ★★

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

2			9		4			3
	3						5	
			1	8				
6		4				7	9	
7		8				6	4	
			5	9				
	2					6		
4			3	6			8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/14

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

2			9		4			3
	3						5	
			1	8				
6		4				7	9	
7		8				6	4	
			5	9				
	2					6		
4			3	6			8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/14

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	9	7	5	4	6	3	8
3	6	4	8	1	9	2	5	7
8	7	5	6	2	3	9	1	4
4	5	8	9	6	1	3	7	2
7	2	6	4	3	5	1	8	9
1	9	3	2	8	7	5	4	6
9	8	1	3	4	2	7	6	5
6	3	7	5	9	8	4	2	1
5	4	2	1	7	6	8	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/17

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR Solution: 4 letters

L	F	E	P	O	L	E	V	N	E	S	W	E	E	T
K	E	I	S	D	H	S	U	R	C	A	N	D	Y	S
S	N	G	A	D	A	R	L	I	N	G	D	Y	R	E
T	I	I	N	N	R	E	R	G	A	K	A	E	N	B
F	T	I	P	A	C	A	R	O	D	D	R	I	A	M
I	N	C	R	E	D	E	C	N	S	I	M	E	E	R
G	E	A	S	O	A	D	E	E	M	E	M	O	R	Y
N	L	R	R	T	O	I	N	D	B	A	P	P	O	S
I	A	E	E	V	R	I	A	E	L	E	S	E	M	R
T	V	S	E	F	T	T	M	F	I	O	A	N	A	E
E	T	S	L	N	E	B	H	E	D	R	V	U	N	W
E	N	R	E	R	R	E	R	O	S	I	F	E	C	O
R	I	L	C	A	A	A	Y	T	R	A	P	Y	E	L
G	A	E	C	R	H	T	N	E	E	T	R	U	O	F
V	S	E	T	S	E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C	B

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Yesterday's Answer: Calculate

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Time: 7.30 AM to 12.00 PM

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• Full Time with flexible working hours.
• Salary: \$5.55/hr
• Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.
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■ 2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business.
■ Full Time with flexible working hours.
■ Salary: \$5.55/hr
■ Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.
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Yankees star Jeter to retire after 2014 season



NEW YORK (AP) — To Derek

Jeter, it was just another day to get ready for spring training.

On a minor league field at the New York Yankees' complex in Florida, he took batting practice, fielded grounders and chatted with teammates. And then he drove away in his Mercedes, offering no hint that the countdown to his retirement had already begun.

Hours later, Jeter alerted the sports world: This will be his final season.

"I know it in my heart. The 2014 season will be my last year playing professional baseball," Jeter posted Wednesday in a long letter on his Facebook page.

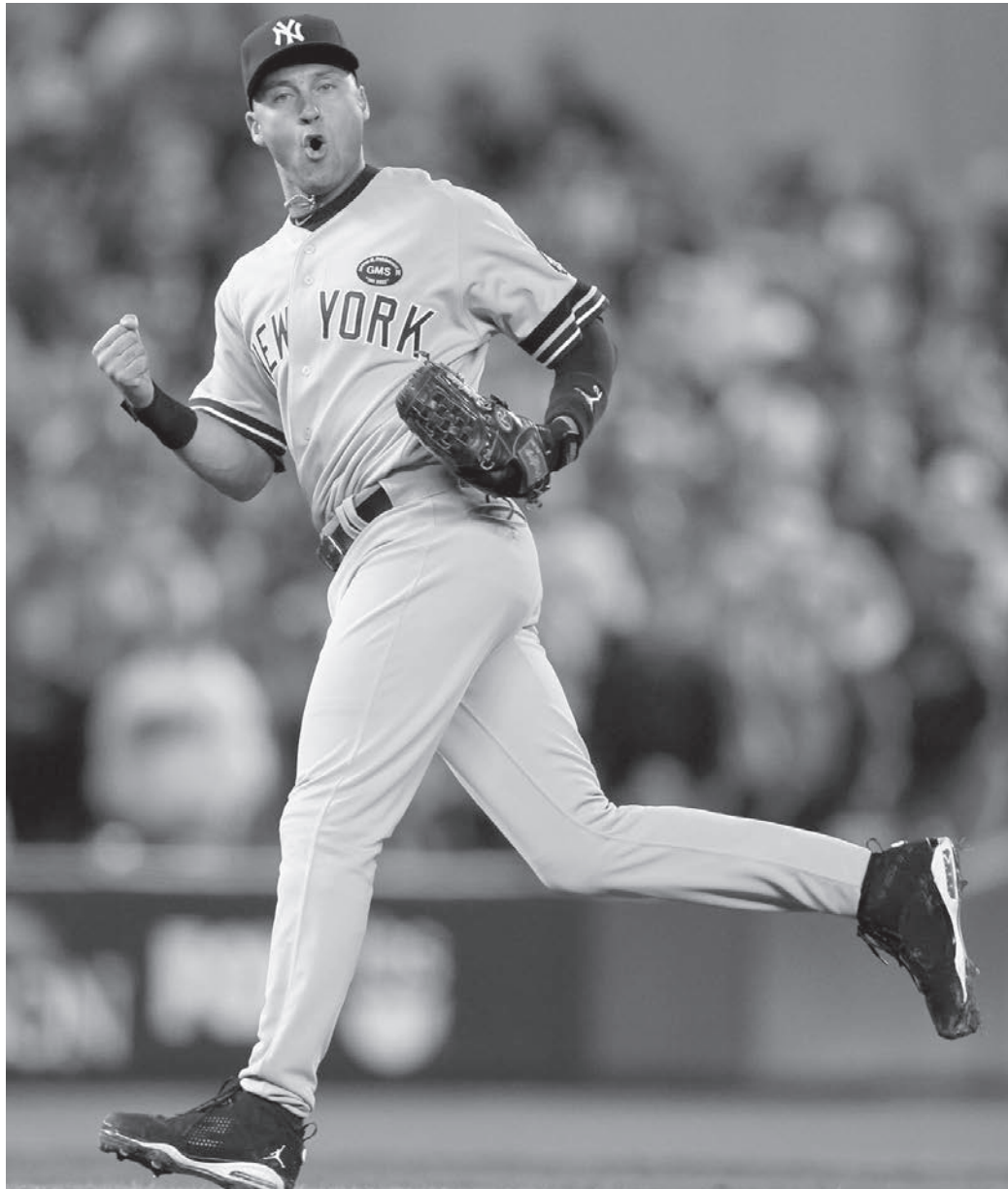
"I have gotten the very most out of my life playing baseball, and I have absolutely no regrets," the shortstop wrote.

While it was no secret the team captain was getting close to the end of his brilliant career as he neared 40—especially after injuries wrecked him last season—Jeter's announcement caught many by surprise.

In fact, some people wondered whether his account had been hacked. But it was quickly confirmed that one of the greatest players in the history of baseball's most storied franchise was serious.

A 13-time All-Star shortstop who led the Yankees to five World Series championships, Jeter was the last link to the powerful Yankees teams that won three straight crowns from 1998-2000. Longtime teammates Mariano Rivera and Andy Pettitte retired after last year.

"Derek Jeter is Mr. Yankee of his era," Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner told The Associated Press. "He was the face of one of the greatest teams ever."



In this Oct. 6, 2010 file photo, New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter reacts after throwing out Minnesota Twins' Denard Span to end the eighth inning of Game 1 of baseball's American League Division Series in Minneapolis.

Jeter was limited to 17 games last season while trying to recover from a broken left ankle sustained during the 2012 playoffs. He hit only .190 with one homer and seven RBIs.

"Last year was a tough one for me. As I suffered through a bunch of injuries, I realized that some of the things that always came easily to me and were always fun had started to become

a struggle," Jeter wrote. "The one thing I always said to myself was that when baseball started to feel more like a job, it would be time to move forward."

"So really it was months ago when I realized that this season would likely be my last. As I came to this conclusion and shared it with my friends and family, they all told me to hold off saying anything until I was absolutely 100

percent sure," he wrote.

"And the thing is, I could not be more sure," he wrote.

His agent, Casey Close, said Jeter wanted to declare his intentions before the Yankees start spring training later this week so that his future status wouldn't be a distraction.

The Yankees open camp for pitchers and catchers on Friday. Jeter has said he's healthy

and ready to go—at 39, his next birthday is in June.

"Derek called me this morning to tell me that he planned to retire following the season," Yankees Managing General Partner Hal Steinbrenner said.

Said Los Angeles Dodgers manager Don Mattingly, a former Jeter teammate: "I'm excited for him. It's kind of nice to see him go out on his own terms."

Jeter is the Yankees' career hits leader with 3,316. He's ninth on the all-time list; a 200-hit season would put him in fifth place.

Jeter is a lifetime .312 hitter in 19 seasons, with 256 home runs and 1,261 RBIs. He has scored 1,876 runs, stolen 348 bases and is a five-time Gold Glove winner.

Added up, his numbers put him among the greats in Yankees history, with fans often invoking the names of Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle when mentioning Jeter's legacy.

But No. 2 is defined by so much more than his numbers. His backhanded flip in the playoffs, his diving catch into the stands, his speech to close old Yankee Stadium and his home run for career hit No. 3,000.

An October presence for so many years—Jeter is a career .321 hitter in seven World Series—he also became Mr. November in 2001. His winning, 10th-inning homer came shortly after midnight in a Game 4 that began on Halloween.

Jeter was the AL Rookie of the Year in 1996, the season the Yankees won their first World Series since 1978 and re-established themselves as a major force. He was the MVP of the 2000 World Series.

"He made me a better player and a better person," longtime teammate Jorge Posada said. "I'm so proud of our friendship and I love him like a brother."

Derek was a true champion."

Commissioner Bud Selig said that during his tenure, "Major League Baseball has had no finer ambassador than Derek Jeter."

A staple for so long in the Yankees' lineup, Jeter missed the first 91 games last year. He felt pain in his right quadriceps when he returned July 11 and again went on the disabled list.

Jeter came back for three games but strained his right calf. In early September, he was done for the year.

The Yankees will open the 2014 regular season on April 1 in Houston. Their final game is scheduled to be at Fenway Park, against the longtime rival Boston Red Sox.

New York's final regular-season home game is set for Sept. 25 against Baltimore. After Jeter's announcement, StubHub said the ticket demand zoomed to make that night the highest-selling game of the 2014 season. Before Wednesday, it wasn't among the top 50 in sales.

Rivera said a year in advance that he would retire, and was saluted everywhere he played last season. Jeter is sure to get a similar farewell tour.

"I wish everybody does it like that," Rivera told ESPN radio. "I think that would be the right thing for him to do."

Jeter wrote that he wants to pursue business and other interests "in addition to focusing more on my personal life and starting a family of my own."

"And I want the ability to move at my own pace, see the world and finally have a summer vacation," he said.

"But before that, I want to soak in every moment of every day this year, so I can remember it for the rest of my life. And most importantly, I want to help the Yankees reach our goal of winning another championship," he said.

American stars struggling in Olympics' early days



SOCHI, Russia (AP)—What a stunning sight: Shani Davis gliding around the speedskating oval, head down in defeat, staring glumly at the ice.

For the U.S. Olympic team, it's becoming more and more common.

One after another, some of the biggest American stars have wiped out in sunny Sochi.

From Bode Miller and Julia Mancuso to Shaun White and Sarah Hendrickson, this is hardly shaping up as an Olympics to remember for the U.S. team.

Davis was just the latest to falter, finishing eighth Wednesday in the 1,000 meters, a race he won at the last two Winter Games.

He was hoping to become the first male speedskater to pull off a three-peat. He didn't come close, fading badly after a quicker-than-expected start.

"I have to live with this for the rest of my life," Davis said. "I can't let it get me down, because I have other races to skate, but I'm pretty sad about it."

He's got plenty of company.

Miller faltered in the men's downhill. Mancuso, after getting a surprise bronze in the super combined, failed to medal in the women's downhill, her best discipline. White dropped out of one event and joined Davis in failing to even win a medal in another, the halfpipe, he owned at the last two games. Hendrickson never had a chance after undergoing major knee surgery six months ago.

"It's a bummer," White said of his defeat.

He could've been speaking for much of the American team after five full days of competition.

The U.S., which led the overall medals table at the 2010 Vancouver Games with 37, was fourth in the standings with

nine as of Wednesday, trailing Norway, Canada and the Netherlands. Four of the American medals have come in snowboarding, including gold for Kaitlyn Farrington and bronze for Kelly Clark in the halfpipe on Wednesday night.

But they are hardly household names back home.

Not like White, Davis and Miller.

Scott Blackmun, CEO of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said it's far too early to push the panic button.

"Whenever we start predicting medals, we get way off track," he told The Associated Press. "Our job is to make sure the athletes are prepared. What we can control is: Are they ready to compete? I can unequivocally say we're ready to compete. And don't forget there's almost two full weeks left."

Clearly, though, things haven't gone according to the

best-laid plans.

On Wednesday, the U.S. women's hockey team lost to bitter rival Canada 3-2 in a tense preview of the expected gold-medal match. The defeat didn't matter all that much in the grand scheme—the countries will likely meet again in the final—but it seemed to fit the theme of yet another American squad coming up short, for whatever reason.

In the women's downhill, Mancuso settled for a disappointing eighth-place finish, and no one else was even close for the Americans. Just last season, every member of the women's speed team had a podium result.

In cross-country skiing, usually an afterthought for the Americans, Kikkan Randall was thought to be a serious medal contender in the women's freestyle sprint. She didn't even get out of her quarterfinal heat Tuesday, passed by no less than three skiers on the final straight.

"Just to come in the games as a gold-medal contender was incredible," Randall said. "I wish I would have been able to fight for that in a few more rounds."

The curlers were struggling, too. The women lost their first four matches and likely needed to win their remaining five round-robin games to have any shot at qualifying for the semifinals. The men were 1-2 after beating Denmark 9-5 on Wednesday, keeping alive their hopes of advancing.

"We are going to stay upbeat whatever happens," U.S. women's skip Erika Brown said. "We worked really hard to be here. We are doing our best out there and we'll keep fighting."

In the new sport of women's ski jumping, the Americans would've been heavy favorites for gold if Hendrickson had been healthy. But the 19-year-old world champion had surgery on her right knee in August, and it

was apparent after her first training jump that she had not fully recovered. She wound up 21st out of 30 starters, her only consolation having the honor of jumping first in the historic final.

"My performance was not the best," she said, "but I kind of expected it."

At least Hendrickson made it to Sochi.

Two of the most notable U.S. Olympians were left at home.

Skier Lindsay Vonn—THE face of the pre-Olympic marketing push in the States—and defending men's figure skating champion Evan Lysacek were unable to compete in Sochi because of injuries.

Blackmun is pleased with those who did make it.

Davis, for instance, has another shot in the 1,500.

"I think our athletes are doing great," he said. "At every single games, we don't win some medals that we thought we might, and we lose some medals that we never thought we would have. These games are no different."

James' 3-pointer lifts Heat past Warriors, 111-110



OAKLAND, California (AP)—LeBron James capped one of his best games of the season in dramatic fashion, making a step-back 3-pointer with less than a second remaining to carry the Miami Heat past the Golden State Warriors 111-110 on Wednesday night and into the All-Star break on a high note.

With teammate Dwyane Wade scratched from the lineup with a sore left foot, James shouldered the load for the two-time defending NBA champions. He finished with 36 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists, saving his best moment for last.

After fellow All-Star Stephen Curry hit a bank shot to start a three-point play that put the Warriors ahead by two, James let the clock tick down on the other end. He swished in a 27-footer with two-tenths of a second left over Andre Iguodala, then patted his chest and high-stepped on the sideline to leave the announced sellout crowd of 19,596 stunned and silent.

James shot 14 of 26 from the floor, including several dazzling dunks, and helped the Heat go ahead by 21 points in the third quarter. Chris Bosh added 19 points and five rebounds, and reserve Michael Beasley scored 16 points in a thrilling victory for the Heat, who played without Wade for the second straight night.

Curry finished with 29 points and seven assists, and David Lee had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Warriors, who rallied to take an 87-84 lead early in the fourth quarter before the teams traded baskets late.

Clippers 122, Trail Blazers 117

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin scored 36 points, Chris Paul had 20 points and 12 assists, and Los Angeles beat Portland in a back and forth game that featured 40 lead changes.

The Clippers, who set a franchise record for largest margin of victory in their 45-point thrashing of Philadelphia on Sunday, converted 16 Portland turnovers into 20 points.

Paul made 10 of 15 shots in his second game back after missing 18 with a separated right shoulder, and Jamal Crawford added 25 points for Los Angeles. The Clippers have won 14 of their last 19 since Jan. 4, when the Spurs handed them their worst loss of the season, 116-92 in San Antonio.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 25 points and Damian Lillard had 21.

Mavericks 81, Pacers 73

In Indianapolis, Monta Ellis had 23 points and nine rebounds, and Dirk Nowitzki added 18 points to help Dallas hand Indiana its third home loss of the season.

The Mavericks (32-22), who have won six of seven, finished a three-game road trip heading into



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) shoots the game winning basket over Golden State Warriors' Andre Iguodala (9) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014, in Oakland, Calif. AP

the NBA All-Star break. Dallas' five-game winning streak was snapped at Charlotte on Tuesday.

George Hill had 14 points, and Lance Stephenson and Danny Granger both scored 13 for the Pacers (40-12), who have lost two of three.

The Mavericks scored the first six points of the fourth quarter and took a 66-62 lead when Ellis made a free throw with 6:55 remaining.

Rockets 113, Wizards 112

In Houston, James Harden scored 35 points and his layup with 0.7 seconds remaining lifted Houston over Washington.

The victory sends the Rockets into the All-Star break with a season-best seven-game winning streak.

John Wall gave Washington the lead with a pair of free throws with 4 seconds left. Trevor Ariza fouled out when he pushed Harden to the ground on the ensuing inbound pass. It was ruled a foul away from the play, giving Houston one free throw and possession.

Harden, who was 16 for 16 at the line, made the free throw before grabbing a pass from Chandler Parsons and driving into the lane for the winning shot.

The Wizards had a chance to win at the end, but Kevin Seraphin's shot clanged off the rim.

Ariza had a season-high 32 points with a career-high 10 3-pointers.

Spurs 104, Celtics 92

In Boston, Tim Duncan scored 23 of his 25 points in the second half, powering injury-depleted San Antonio to a win over Boston.

Marco Belinelli added 16 points, 11 rebounds and eight

assists for the Spurs, who played without guards Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili and forward Tiago Splitter — all sidelined with injuries.

Boris Diaw added 18 points and Duncan grabbed nine rebounds to lead the Spurs to their fifth win in seven games.

Rajon Rondo led Boston with 16 points and Kris Humphries and rookie Kelly Olynyk had 15 apiece. The Celtics fell to 4-18 against Western Conference teams.

Boston was minus guard Avery Bradley, who was sidelined with a sprained right ankle.

Timberwolves 117, Nuggets 90

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love started practicing early for All-Star weekend, making six of 11 shots from 3-point range and totaling 32 points and 11 rebounds to lead Minnesota over Denver.

Love, chosen as a first-time starter for the Western Conference team, will also take part in the 3-point shooting contest this weekend in New Orleans.

Denver (24-27) has dropped nine of 13 and four in a row to fall behind Minnesota (25-28) and into 11th place in the West. The Wolves trail eighth-place Phoenix by six games.

Jordan Hamilton led the Nuggets with 16 points and seven assists, and J.J. Hickson added 14 points and 13 rebounds.

Corey Brewer added 22 points, J.J. Barea pitched in 18 points on 8-for-8 shooting, and Ricky Rubio had 11 points and 12 assists for the Wolves, who had coach Rick Adelman back on the sideline. He missed the previous game on Monday, an absence he said was related to his wife's health.

Cavaliers 93, Pistons 89

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Kyrie Irving's 3-pointer as the shot clock expired with 27.2 seconds remaining keyed Cleveland's victory over Detroit.

Tristan Thompson scored 14 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter for Cleveland, overpowering Detroit's vaunted front line as the Cavaliers rallied from a 10-point deficit in the final period. Cleveland won its fourth straight and snapped the Pistons' three-game winning streak.

Andre Drummond had 16 points and 17 rebounds for the Pistons, but he didn't do much in the fourth quarter, when Thompson took control inside.

Cleveland led by one in the final minute when Irving stepped back and made his big 3 to put the Cavs ahead 89-85. Cleveland beat the Pistons for the first time in eight meetings.

Detroit was playing its second game under interim coach John Loyer after Maurice Cheeks was fired Sunday.

Raptors 104, Hawks 83

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 31 points, Kyle Lowry had 16 points and 13 assists, and Toronto snapped a five-game home losing streak to Atlanta.

Patrick Patterson scored 14 and Terrence Ross 13 as the Raptors beat the Hawks in Toronto for the first time since March 17, 2010, when Chris Bosh hit a jumper in the closing seconds of a 106-105 victory.

Greivis Vasquez scored 12 points and Jonas Valanciunas had 14 rebounds as Toronto won for the 10th time in 12 home games and maintained a three-game edge over Brooklyn

atop the Atlantic Division. The Raptors had lost seven of their past eight home meetings with the Hawks.

Gustavo Ayon had 18 points and 10 rebounds and Paul Millsap scored 17 for the Hawks, who have lost five straight. Atlanta lost for the fourth time in five road games.

Grizzlies 86, Magic 81

In Orlando, Fla., Zach Randolph had 20 points, Courtney Lee added 17 and Memphis held off Orlando.

Memphis beat the Magic for the sixth straight time and enters the All-Star break having won eight of its last 11.

The Grizzlies led by as many as 13 points in the second half before having to fight off several Magic runs down the stretch. Memphis also lost center Marc Gasol in the third quarter after he aggravated a left knee injury.

Nik Vucevic had 13 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Magic.

Nets 105, Bobcats 89

In New York, Paul Pierce scored 25 points to lead Brooklyn over Charlotte.

Deron Williams added 13 points and seven assists, and Andray Blatche scored 13 off the bench to help the Nets win their final home game before the All-Star break.

Brooklyn went on a 15-3 run to open the third quarter, extending its lead to 17, and never looked back.

Kemba Walker led the Bobcats with 16 points. Al Jefferson, who scored at least 26 in each of his previous three games, was limited to 12 on 5-for-13 shooting.

Kings 106, Knicks 101, OT

In New York, Rudy Gay made the tying basket in regulation and a 3-pointer in overtime that gave Sacramento the lead for good, and Jimmer Fredette scored a career-high 24 points to help the Kings beat New York.

Gay finished with 20 points for the Kings, who shook off a 13-point deficit and the loss of DeMarcus Cousins late in regulation to salvage the finale of a four-game road trip. Cousins had 19 points and 14 rebounds before limping off with about 3½ minutes left.

Carmelo Anthony had 36 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks but flopped at the finish, missing a potential winning shot in regulation before blowing a layup on the first possession of overtime. He was scoreless in the extra session.

New York finished a disappointing and turbulent first half at 20-32. The reigning Atlantic Division champions have already lost more games than all of last season and continue to battle injuries and speculation that coach Mike Woodson's job is in jeopardy.

Pelicans 102, Bucks 98

In Milwaukee, Eric Gordon scored 21 points, center Alexis Ajinca added 16 and New Orleans headed home for All-Star weekend with a victory over Milwaukee.

The Pelicans had seven players in double figures and stayed in the game despite foul trouble all night for big man Anthony Davis.

Davis ended up playing the fourth quarter with four fouls, providing enough of a presence on both ends of the floor to allow his teammates to go strong to the hoop.

Brandon Knight had 22 points and nine assists to lead the Bucks, limited to nine players because of a litany of injuries.

Jazz 105, 76ers 100

In Salt Lake City, Alec Burks scored 10 of his 26 points in the final 2 minutes to lift Utah over skidding Philadelphia.

The game was tied 91-all when the Jazz looked to Burks to create some offense. The guard made a number of acrobatic drives to the basket and capped a personal 9-0 run with a soaring dunk to make it 100-91 with 22 seconds to play.

Utah's top scorer off the bench got to the free throw line with his aggressive play, making 13 of 14 from the stripe in 22 minutes. His clutch scoring extended Utah's winning streak to three and sent the Sixers to their ninth straight road loss to the Jazz.

Evan Turner scored 21 points for Philadelphia. The 76ers lost their eighth straight, the previous two by more than 40 points each.

Gordon Hayward scored 17 and Marvin Williams had 13 points and 14 rebounds as the Jazz put six players in double figures.

Elway gets 3-year extension, new GM title

E N G L E - WOOD, Colo. (AP)—John Elway led Denver to the Super Bowl faster as a front office executive than he did as a quarterback.

On Wednesday, the Broncos extended his contract, which was set to expire after this year, through 2017 and added general manager to his title of executive vice president.

Team President Joe Ellis lauded the work Elway has done so far, saying he’s “demonstrated great vision and leadership in his role, assembling a championship caliber team and positioning it for sustained success.”

Elway, who will speak publicly on Friday at the NFL combine in Indianapolis, said in a statement that he was grateful for the opportunity and “we remain relentlessly committed to delivering a world championship” to Denver.

The Broncos are coming off their first AFC title in 15 years but they were blown out 43-8 by Seattle in the Super Bowl, a result that was eerily similar to the first three of Elway’s five Super Bowls before he capped his Hall of Fame playing career with back-to-back titles in 1998 and ’99.

Asked at his end-of-season news conference last week how long it took him to get over those losses, Elway said, “I’m not over them yet. I just added this one to it.”

The Broncos have gone 37-17 since Elway rejoined the team on Jan. 5, 2011, when owner Pat Bowlen brought him back to rescue a franchise reeling from a nosedive under Josh McDaniels that bottomed out with a 4-12 season, Denver’s worst in four decades.

Elway’s first order of business was hiring coach John Fox, who has led Denver to three straight AFC West titles

and is expected to sign his own long-term extension soon.

Next on Elway’s to-do list was changing the losing culture that had enveloped his beloved Broncos while he was away honing his managerial skills by running restaurants, car dealerships and an indoor football league franchise.

That began with a roster makeover.

“I think No. 1, we had to clean up the locker room. We had to get to get the locker room right,” Elway said last month. “... that is really the life bread of what the organization is all about. How that locker room fits is the most important thing.”

Although it’s early to render a verdict on his draft acumen, Elway has unquestionably hit the jackpot in free agency, first by luring Peyton Manning to Denver in 2012 and then last year by signing Wes Welker and Louis Vasquez, who in 2013

became the NFL’s only free agent signee to earn All-Pro first-team honors.

Other free agents - notably Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, Terrance Knighton and Shaun Phillips - helped Denver’s defense weather an injury epidemic in which six starters missed significant playing time.

“It’s been my goal to really continue what Pat Bowlen created in the fact that people want to play here,” Elway said last month. “So players will come here late in their career when they know they have a chance to win a world championship.”

Manning has thrown for 100 touchdowns and 11,336 yards in his two seasons in Denver and this season won his fifth MVP award. He is planning to play in 2014 and perhaps another year after that.

Elway has said he doesn’t want to just win now, but from “now on,” and how backup quarterback Brock

Oswelier performs whenever Manning retires will go a long way in determining whether Elway’s long-term vision will pan out as well as his short-term fixes have.

The Broncos ended a six-year playoff drought in 2011 when they went 8-8 with Tim Tebow at quarterback, beating Pittsburgh in the playoffs before losing to New England.

Elway lured Manning to Denver that spring and traded away Tebow the next day.

“Tim Tebow was so popular, John Elway is the only one who could have pulled that off,” wide receiver Demaryius Thomas said.

The Broncos went 13-3 in 2012 but a crushing loss to Baltimore in the playoffs left a scar that drove them to another 13-3 season last year. This time, they beat San Diego and New England in the playoffs to reach their first Super Bowl since Elway was leading them from the huddle.

Elway has made more than 600 transactions since rejoining the Broncos, and he acknowledged some difficult decisions await as he shapes the roster for 2014.

Although the Broncos came up way short in the Super Bowl, Elway promised to navigate this offseason with the notion that this loss will drive Denver to do something no team has done since Buffalo in 1993 - reach the Super Bowl the year after losing it.

“The bottom line is we’re going to work as hard as we worked this year, if not harder, and continue to do that with the mindset that we want to be world champions,” Elway said, “and we’re going to do everything we can to get there.”

BRAVES

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ball. The five others runs came off Isaiah Teigita and Anthony Dison’s RBI singles, two more passed balls, and a stolen base. Three of the Braves’ batters at the top of the order trooped to the plate twice with two team of

also scoring in that crucial inning.

The Jets answered with only three runs at the bottom second and never made headway, as they added only one run in the last three innings, while the Braves tucked in seven more with majority of them coming off passed balls. Sablan and Joe Tudela

both went 3-for-4 at the plate for the Braves with the latter adding one RBI and scoring three runs and the former contributing four.

In last Saturday’s game, the Red Sox allowed Laolao to two hits and one earned run to take the victory.

Kavika F. recorded Laolao’s first hit at the top

of the fifth, as he singled and eventually reached home off J.P. Celis’ base hit. Laolao earlier got one run in the fourth inning off a Red Sox error at centerfield, but still trailed, as the latter countered with three runs at the bottom of the fifth. Marty Tagacan blasted a two-run single in the fifth, while Kiana Aldan

scored off a passed ball.

Derrick Resaura, the Red Sox’s third batter in the game, preserved their advantage and secured the win at the top of the sixth, as he struck out two Laolao batters. The Red Sox got the third out when leadoff batter Josh Skilang was caught stealing home.

PAIRE

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Rosario’s hit in the 18th minute. MP United then got its second goal, courtesy of Greg Sablan, with just five minutes gone by in the second half, while Tanapon Unsa also made it to the board 25 minutes later. Jehn Joyner drilled the fourth and last goal 10 minutes before the match wrapped up.

BOYS U15

MP United prevailed, too, in

the lone boys U15 game last Saturday at the Oleai pitch, downing Tan Holdings FC.

Sunjoon Tenorio recorded the lone goal in the game when he scored in the 23rd minute.

The boys U15 competition started last Friday with Matansa FC and Shirley’s FC playing in the opening game, also at the Oleai pitch. Matansa went on to pound Shirley’s FC, 7-0.

Evan Belcher was unstoppable in Matansa’s season de-

but, as he canned four goals, while James Ermitanio, Carlson Cruzat, and Joshua De Leon chipped in one apiece. Belcher drew first blood for Matansa with his goal in the ninth, while Ermitanio also scored in the first half (29th minute). The first 45 minutes of the match ended with Matansa ahead, 3-0, after Belcher got his second goal.

In the second half, Cruzat opened the scoring for Matansa when he found the back of the net in the 55th,

while Belchers scored the next two goals in a span of eight minutes (63rd and 72nd minute). De Leon capped Matansa’s demolition of Shirley’s FC with a goal in the 82nd.

GIRLS U15

In the first girls U15 match at the Hopwood pitch, MP United clipped past Kanoa FC.

Gillian Villagomez registered the lone goal in the match, scoring in the 35th.

In the second game, Tan Hold-

ings FC eased past Paire FC, 5-0.

Back-to-back goals from Chloe Salvosa set up Tan Holdings’ shutout win. She got her first goal in the ninth minute and the second 14 minutes later. Krizel Mae Tuazon made it a 3-0 advantage with her goal in the 25th minute, while Mary Kay Alfero also lit up the board five minutes later for a 4-0 half-time lead. Chevy Kate Alipio completed Tan Holdings’ domination of Paire with a goal in the 64th minute.

BREWERS

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while the Yankees dropped to a 1-1 record.

Leadoff batter Tyrone Omar scored the first run for the Brewers off an error from Yankees pitcher Dung Tenorio, while Nokki Saralu gave the Tony Rogolifoi-managed squad their second run off a sacrifice fly. The Brewers then added four more runs in the second off Saralu, Mike Pangelinan, and Manny Sablan’s RBI singles, and Byron Kaipat’s RBI double for a 6-0 advantage, which they kept after three innings behind the steady performance at the plate of Lenny Sablan.

Sablan then returned to the dugout after giving up three hits and one run to the Yan-

kees in the fourth. The Yankees went on to nail three more runs in the next two innings to remain afloat, 4-6. Brian Camacho had an RBI single in the fifth, while the two other Yankees runs were courtesy off a passed ball and an error from Brewers’ shorts stop Ton Leon Guerrero.

The Brewers kept the shaky two-run lead after neither team scored in the seventh inning before the defending champions gained more cushion in the eighth, notching three runs. Diego Camacho had an RBI single at the top of the eighth and he scored too, off a fumble from Yankees’ shortstop A.J. Lizama, who committed another booboo that drove home Leon Guerrero.

Down 5-9, the Yankees refused to give up and moved

within two anew when Ben Jones made an RBI single and also reached home off Leon Guerrero’s error. The Yankees then boosted their chances for a come-from-behind win when they knocked off the Brewers’ first three batters at the top of the last inning.

However, the Brewers countered with a strong defense, too, at the bottom of the ninth to foil the Yankees’ bid. Rightfielder Harry Nakamura caught a fly ball from Lizama, who led off for the Yankees, while centerfielder Marvin Kaipat also nabbed a fly from Gary Cruz, leaving Brian Camacho at first base. Camacho advanced off an error from leftfield and was stuck there, as the Brewers got the last out with first baseman Bryon Kaipat pick-

ing up a grounder from Pat Alepuyo.

Fielders 11, D-9ers 9

In last Wednesday’s game, the Fielders bounced back from a 2-22 lost to the Brewers in the opener with a win over the D-9ers (0-2).

The Fielders performed better at the plate in the last four innings and halted the D-9ers’ rally at the bottom of the ninth inning to eke out the victory.

Ahead by only 2, 3-1, after five complete innings, the Fielders scored four runs in the sixth and also lit up the scoreboard in two of the last three innings to hand the D-9ers back-to-back losses. Jared Sablan hit a two-run single at the top of the sixth and scored, too off a D-9ers

error, while the other run was made off a passed ball, giving last year’s finalists a 7-2 lead. The Fielders was then without a run in the seventh before notching for more in the last two to stretch their advantage to 9, 11-2.

The D-9ers got only one run at the bottom of the sixth, but threatened the Fielders after mounting a last-inning rally. The D-9ers first four batters scored off the Fielders’ two errors at rightfield, an RBI double from Ricky Joe Renguul, and a sacrifice out with two outs. The D-9ers then got another run from the Fielders’ error at first base with to move within one before the latter finally got the third out with third pitcher Aaron Benavente striking out Tim Deleon Guerrero.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	28	24	.538	—
Brooklyn	24	26	.480	3
New York	20	32	.385	8
Boston	19	35	.352	10
Philadelphia	15	39	.278	14

Southeast Division

Miami	37	14	.725	—
Atlanta	25	26	.490	12
Washington	25	27	.481	12½
Charlotte	23	30	.434	15
Orlando	16	38	.296	22½

Central Division

Indiana	40	12	.769	—
Chicago	26	25	.510	13½
Detroit	22	30	.423	18
Cleveland	20	33	.377	20½
Milwaukee	9	43	.173	31

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	38	15	.717	—
Houston	36	17	.679	2
Dallas	32	22	.593	6½
Memphis	29	23	.558	8½
New Orleans	23	29	.442	14½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	42	12	.778	—
Portland	36	17	.679	5½
Minnesota	25	28	.472	16½
Denver	24	27	.471	16½
Utah	19	33	.365	22

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	37	18	.673	—
Phoenix	30	21	.588	5
Golden State	31	22	.585	5
L.A. Lakers	18	34	.346	17½
Sacramento	18	35	.340	18

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lady Dolphins sweep first round of MISO v'ball



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Marianas High School player goes for a spike during their game against Saipan Southern High School in the MISO volleyball league last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School dominated Saipan Southern High School last Tuesday to sweep the first round of competition in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League.

The Lady Dolphins now have eight victories in as many games to gain some distance against Grace Christian Academy (7-1) and Mount Carmel School (6-2). Saipan International School (5-2), MHS JV (3-5), Southern (3-5), Kagman (2-6), SIS JV (2-7), and Kagman JV (0-8) complete the standings pending results of yesterday's matches.

The varsity team of MHS dominated Southern in their game last Tuesday, 25-4, 25-11, 15-2, and also secured the early win over Kagman JV last Feb. 6, winning the first two sets of the match, 25-11, 25-8, to sweep the first round of the two-round robin league. Kagman JV avoided a shut-out against the Lady Dolphins when it eked out a 15-13 victory in the third set.

In other results last Feb. 6, Mt. Carmel, GCA, and Kagman prevailed against separate foes in all three sets. The Lady Knights bagged the early win against MHS JV, 25-10, 25-17, before completing the sweep with a 15-9 triumph in the second set. The Lady Eagles pulled off a 25-20 win over SIS in the opening set and

sealed the outright victory with a 25-18 triumph in the second set. GCA was still at it in the third, downing SIS, 15-13.

Kagman also had a tough time against SIS JV in the first set before notching a 25-22 win, and the Lady Ayuyus went on to bag the automatic victory after the second set, 25-21. Kagman then went 3-0 with its 15-6 win in the last set.

The Lady Geckos' junior varsity squad bounced back last Tuesday after edging MHS JV.

Victories in the first two sets, 25-23, 25-14 handed SIS JV the win, while MHS JV managed to steal the third set, 15-12.

In the two other games last Tuesday, the Lady Knights and Lady Eagles kept pace with MHS after winning their separate matches. GCA stayed in second place in the team standings, following a 25-11, 27-25, 15-9 victory over SIS, while Mt. Carmel kept the No. 3 spot with its 25-22, 25-23, 16-14 win against Kagman.



TBK rallies past Pelicans



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TBK's Junar Guiab draws a foul on the Pelicans' Trevor Ogunmoro in the closing seconds of their game in the MDX caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TBK pulled off a come-from-behind win against the Pelicans, 72-68, in the 2014 MDX Amateur Radio Club Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

TBK stole the victory in the fourth quarter behind the contributions of Francis Rebuyon and Ivan Devero. Rebuyon had 10 of his 18 points in the final canto, while Devero matched the former's output in the fourth frame after a so-so performance in the first three quarters.

Devero's fifth basket in the quarter gave TBK a 3-point lead, 71-68. He drilled the crucial basket after receiving an entry pass from Junar Guiab and with the 24-second shot clock ticking down. After Devero's drive, the Pelicans sued for time and was left with 17.4 seconds to pull up for a 2-point field goal to remain in the game or attempt for a triple to force a tie. Leo Galarse chose the latter attempting a quick trey and missed with the ball bouncing off the rim and going above the board, returning possession to TBK.

The Pelicans then gave up a preemptive foul, sending Guiab to the 15-foot line. Guiab muffed the first charity, but made the second for the in-

surance, seven seconds remaining on the clock. The Pelicans pulled up for another triple, but Edwin Camacho also faltered on the desperation shot, while TBK ran down the clock.

TBK managed to win after fighting back from a 14-point halftime deficit, 27-41. It started rallying back in the third quarter, scoring 22 points against only 15 from the Pelicans, to bring the lead down to single digit, 49-56. Christian Devero and Guiab teamed up in the third period, combining for 13 of their total points to bring TBK back into the game.

Then in the fourth quarter, it was the pair of Ivan Devero and Rebuyon who towed TBK, alternately hitting baskets that cost the Pelicans the game. The Pelicans lost the lead and the game after hitting only five field goals and drawing only two field goals and 5 points from Galarse. Trevor Ogunmoro paced the Pelicans with his 13 markers.

Meanwhile, in the second game, San Antonio beat Do-como, 71-63.

TBK 72 – Guiab 18, Rebuyon 18, I. Devero 14, Mateo 8, C. Devero 4.

Pelicans 68 – Brennan 18, Ogunmoro 13, Reyes 12, Ajoste 8, Galarse 5, Camacho 5.

Scoring by quarters: 15-19, 27-41, 49-56, 72-68.

MHS still flawless in MISO soccer

Defending champions Marianas High School remained unbeaten in the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Soccer League.

The Lady Dolphins secured their third victory in as many games after blanking Kagman High School last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, 5-0. Incidentally, MHS' first two victories of the season also came off shutout fashions. The defending champions debuted with a 4-0 win over Kagman last Jan. 29, and had similar 4-0 victory over Southern early this month.

Southern has two victories, beating Kagman in their first meeting, 2-1, and recording another 2-1 win in their second outing last Friday, 2-1. Yvonne Indalecio and Marielle Gariguez scored for the Lady Rays with the former finding the back of the net in the first half and latter getting a penalty shot in the second. Chelsea Lizama drilled the lone goal for Kagman, while scorers in the other games



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Saipan Southern High School player, right, tries to keep the ball away from a Kagman High School defender during their game in the MISO soccer league last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

were unavailable, as official match reports have yet to be turned in by league organizers.

Action in the MISO girls soccer league will continue today with Kagman taking on Southern at 4pm at the Oleai pitch.

Two more regular games

are scheduled and a couple of make-up matches before the league start its playoff round.

The Lady Dolphins are gunning for an unprecedented sixth straight championship this season. The defending champions won their fifth crown last year

after whipping Southern in the finals, 5-0. A 1-0 win in the semis against Kagman gave MHS a return trip ticket to the finals, while Southern advanced after routing MHS JV, 5-0. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*



Yankees star Jeter
to retire after
2014 season

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Saipan Tribune Sports



James' 3-pointer
lifts Heat past
Warriors, 111-110

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32 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Braves, Red Sox bag second victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Braves and Red Sox beat separate foes to notch their second win in three games in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League over the weekend at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Red Sox outclassed Laolao Bay (1-2), 7-2, while the Braves eased past the Jets (0-3), 19-6, to share the second spot behind division co-leaders IT&E, Hustlers, Falcons, and Comets, which have similar 3-0 records. Both the Braves and Red Sox finished off their opponents early with the former taking only four innings to down the Jets and the Red Sox bagging the victory after five and a half innings.

A nine-inning top of the second allowed the Braves to set up the early decision last Sunday, turning a deadlock, to an 11-5 advantage after two complete innings. Robin Sablan led the Braves in the pivotal second inning, as he hit a three-run triple and also scored off a passed

See BRAVES on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Laolao Bay pitcher in action during an earlier game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. Laolao Bay played the Red Sox last Sunday and lost, 2-7.

Paire leads opening week winners



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire FC's Joel Fruit, right, beats a Matansa FC player to the ball during the second half of their game in the boys U18 division of the 2014 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paire Football Club got off to a good start after defeating Matansa Football Club in the boys U18 division, 1-0, during the opening week of the 2014 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Ethan Dickinson scored the first goal of the season for Paire, as he connected a header after a corner kick in the 50th minute.

Over at the Oleai Sports Complex Field for the other boys U18 game, MP United whipped Tan Holdings FC, 4-0.

Four different players scored in MP United's first game of the season. The Norman Del Rosario-coached team started slow, making only one goal in the opening half off Enrico Del

See PAIRE on Page 30



Brewers keep perfect record in SBL



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Byron Kaipat, seen here pitching for the Yankees in last year's Saipan Baseball League, now suits up for the Brewers, who won against the latter, 9-7, last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champions Brewers are still unscathed in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League, following a 9-7 victory over the Yankees last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers worked on of-

fense early, scoring in the first two innings and then gained insurance runs in the penultimate inning to beat the Yankees. The defending champions improved to a 3-0 lead to keep their hold on the top spot in the six-team field.

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